Enid Blyton

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Noddy goes to multi-media land

G2 with European weather

Sifisio Mahlangu

Caught in a black and white tug of war

G2 Women, pages 12/13



Education **Academic freedom** and "scientific racism"

G2 pages 10/11

Britain threatens to hit back over Russian 'spy' expulsions

The looking glass war

James Meek in Moscow and Richard Norton-Taylor

HE MOST serious crisis in British-Russian relations since the end of the cold war was looming last night as the Foreign Office warned it would retaliate against the threatened expul-sion of up to nine British diplomats from Moscow for alleged espionage. Russia's threat to expel the

Britons came after a triumphant announcement by the Federal Security Service (FSB) — the intelligence agency which succeeded the KGB — that it had arrested an English spy in the act of broadcasting secret information to his controllers in

Russia's deputy foreign minister, Sergei Krylov, con-firmed that there would be expulsions, but he refused to specify the number of Britons who would be ordered to pack their bags.

Grigory Karasin, Mr Kry-lov's spokesman, said later that the incident should not be dramatised, but there could be an announcement from Moscow today.

"Such cases sometimes hap-pen in relations between countries," a ministry spokes-man told the Interfax news agency.
'The official representative

of the foreign ministry expressed the hope that the incident will not affect Russian-British relations," Inter-

In London, a Foreign Office spokesman warned that any expulsions would be met with an "appropiate response" - a clear threat of retaliation.

Last night. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secre-tary, — who earlier in the day had spoken to the Prime Minister. John Major, about the affair — warned Moscow that Britain would consider taking action if they went ahead and expelled British diplomats. Mr Rifkind said nine diplo-

mats might be affected. The Foreign Secretary said allegations that the diplomats — whose names were given to Sir Andrew Wood, the British were involved in "improper activities" were totally unjus-tified. The FO said Russia had



up the claims.

Mr Krylov said he had summoned Sir Andrew, but would not comment on the tone or content of their meeting, refer-ring journalists to the FSB.

The dominant role of the FSB in advertising the arrest of the alleged agent, a Russian citizen, and the undiplomatic language used by its spokes-man, Alexander Zdanovich, mark a breach with past protocol when Russia's foreign ministry has announced expulsions.

Mr Zdanovich did use the old euphemism for diplomat-spies, saying the Britons would be expelled "for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status" But he rendered the phrase

unnecessary by going on to call the diplomats "regular English intelligence agents who, under the cover of diplo-Embassy in Russia, maintained contact with the exposed agent."

Russia's current foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov. is himself a former intelligence chief.

Mr Zdanovich said the arrested man, who has not been named, had worked for the federal government in Moscow. He was detained last month.

"The arrested man had mation and passed on to British intelligence information of a political and strategicdefence character," Mr Zdanovich said.

He said the man had been recruited in the mid-1990s, and had received material reward from Britain. The alleged spy. who



A Russian militiaman guards the British embassy in Moscow while in the Kremlin and in London the spy row grows

Moscow, has been charged under article 64 of Russia's criminal code, Betrayal Of The Motherland, which carries a potential death sentence Another FSB spokesman,

Boris Kostenko, said: "The man was seized red-handed as he was in the process of communicating with his head-quarters." The agency said

being held in Lefortovo prison, I that, under interrogation, the I Last year, a Russian journalagent had confessed to being a spy for Britain. In February this year a

businessman, Shakespear, one of 11 British diplomats and journalists expelled from Moscow in 1989 when he was working as a military attaché at the embassy, was deported from Russia for the second time.

ist was asked to leave Britain. Russian security services

suspect that the relative ease with which Western businessmen come and go from Russia, often visiting formerly restricted or closed areas and meeting with people who previously would have required

igencies. Tension caused by the latest incident could adversely affect the hundreds of Britons who do business in Russia Firms such as BP, ICI, Rolls Royce and Cadbury Schweppes, as well as many less well-known companies, security clearance to talk to are increasingly operating in foreigners, is being abused by the country.

Tax break for Tory MPs

granted a £400,000 tax amnesty to about 20 Conservative MPs, some of whom claimed car mileage and depreciation allowances for parliamentary business

while using company cars.

At the beart of the issue are the parliamentary rules governing the generous 60p to 74p mileage rates for MPs. One unnamed Tory MP who claimed for three company cars at different addresses has saved £30,000-£40.000 in

tax, interest and penalties.

The revelation comes on the day of publication for the first Register of MPs' Inter-ests based on new rules following the Nolan committee report on sleaze.

Details of the tax amnesty

came to light after a retired tax inspector, David Benny, who handled MPs' and directors' income tax, complained to Lord Nolan about the Inland Revenue's action.

In a letter placed in the Public Records Office by the Nolan committee, he says: "I was personally involved during 1993 and 1994 in the aftermath of approaches by a number of MPs to a government minister who intervened on their behalf with the Board of Inland Revenue. As a result the board absolved these MPs from liabilities to income tax. interest, and, very likely in some cases, penalties as well."

about Mr Benny's complaint but do not deny a meeting between Tory MPs and Stephen Dorrell, then financial secretary to the Treasury, on the general point of tax law affecting MPs car allowances. Later Michael Stern, an accountant and Conservative MP for Bristol North West, appealed on another MP's behalf to the Revenue commissioners and won a case with repercussions on other tax investigations into MPs' allowances.

The MPs' mileage rate is Turn to page 2, column 7

NHS market 'leading to meltdown' as trusts resist funding squeeze

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

EADERS of NHS trusts have warned Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, that the health service is facing the deepest crisis since the Government introduced. the internal market.

One trust chief executive has said financial pressures are so severe that there is a prospect of "meltdown" in parts of the service.

The problems come after a winter of bed shortages in many areas, recalling the annual crises which the introduction of contracts between health authority pur-chasers and hospital and community trust providers was supposed to end. Trouble next winter in the

run-up to a spring general election is foreshadowed by what has been, by common consent, the most difficult contracting round between trusts and authorities since the market started in 1991.

authorities in England £23.2 billion for hospital and community services in 1996/ 97, a real increase in funding of 1.1 per cent. But it has again ordered "efficiency sav-

ings" of 3 per cent.

To meet spiralling demand for health care, while keeping waiting times no longer than 12 months, many authorities have asked trusts to deliver more care for little or no increase in their contract price.

Disputes have broken out across the country and many contracts remain unsigned six weeks into the financial year. In east London, nonemergency hospital appointments have been frozen because of a stand-off between the Newham Healthcare trust and its local health

In Scotland, the Raigmore hospital trust in Inverness told the Highland health board to state publicly which services it was expected to cut to meet a standstill budget. According to the NHS Trust

tive of the Gloucestershirebased Severn trust, is quoted in the federation's newsletter

as having described the posi-tion as "extremely grave". He warned of "meltdown in a number of areas in the health service in the not-too-distant future".

Mr James is said to have told the federation's ruling council: "We are hearing about huge differences be-

tween purchasers and provid-ers, amounting to millions of pounds. These problems are real and serious. They are not shroud-waving." Ross Tristem, the federa-tion's director, said the depu-tation which had seen Mr Dorrell had left him in no doubt about the severity of the difficulties facing trusts. I think he was aware that it had been a difficult contract-ing round. I suspect he has

The Government has given thorities in England Dorrell last week, problems are "worse than ever before".

Richard James, chief executions evidence of problems. The federation and the Department of Health were col-lecting evidence of problems and the two sides would meet for further talks.

"A lot of people who say they have not got a problem are funding this year out of non-recurring cash," Mr Tris-tem said. "These people are going to hit the problems next

ear." Health authorities acknowl edge that services may suffer through having to focus on the twin priorities of treating emergency patients and meet-ing the 12-month waiting time target for non-urgent cases. Philip Hunt, director of the

National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, last week told a con-ference of Unison, the biggest NHS union: "There are very wide gaps this year on con-tracts. We have been produc-ing efficiency savings year on year and there must come a point at which we have cut taken on board the fact that it out all the excess padding and is not going to be possible to we end up cutting services."

Big Apple seeks to curb cab drivers' notorious rudeness

lan Katz in New York

T IS ONE of the immutable verities of modern urban life: cabbles in New York are always rude. But now the city's authorities are attempting to teach them good manners.

Henceforth, trainee cabbies - whose grasp of English rarely matches their command of obscenity — will be taught 50 courteous phrases such as: "I'm sorry if you think I am driving too fast, sir/madam. I will slow down immediately."

The Taxi and Limousine Commission's initiative is the latest in its long battle to smarten up the image of New York's yellow cabs.

It has incorporated the use of phrases such as "Thank you for hailing me, sir/madam" into the two-hour exam which all cabbies must pass. Instead of the expletive which typically follows the proffering of a large denomi-nation bill, cabbies will be encouraged to say: "I am sorry but I am not required to change a \$50 bill." News of the initiative had, by yesterday, evidently not Rank words

What they should say: "It is my pleasure to place your bags in the trunk." What they say: "It's open".

What they should say: "I am sorry, I may not make a U-turn, sir (madam), as it is illegal. But I will be sure to get you to your destination as quickly as possible." What they say: "Whadayoumean U-turn? You want I lose licence?"

What they should say: "May I help you into the building, madam/sir?" What they say: "This you call a tip?"

reached some cabbies. Mohamad Hassan, who has driven a cab since arriving from Egypt nine years ago, sald: "Taxi driver treat the people very nice but people treat the taxi driver very bad."

MD Hossain, from Bangla-desh, said: "I talk to passen-

gers all the time, but I have a lot who get in the cab and treat me like an animal."

Inside

The Treasury is resisting a City scheme to raise funds for public large firms to pay voluntary taxes **World News**

Spain has warned that it will sever communication links with Gibraitar if its gnevances over the Rock are not addressed -

The Co-op brings its oldest customer benefit into the electronic age with the launch of a swipe-card "divi" today

Manchester United have established a pattern of power similar to that

of Liverpool during

their 15-year rule

of the championship

Comment and Letters 8 Obituaries 10 Radio 16; TV 16

Prague Writers' Festival 1996

PHOTOGRAPH: GRIGORY OUKOR

Open season, page 3; Poll to go ahead, page 6; Leader comment, page 8; Pass

Notes, G2 page 3

This year the Prague Writers' Festival, directed by Michael March, will once again showcase a selection of fine authors from around the world. Meet them at the Viola Theatre, Národní 7, (nearest metro Narodni) from May 9-11. For more details cait: 44 171 7134133

Thursday May 9 Sylva Fischerová - Czech Republic

Andrzej Sosnowski - Poland Evelyn Schlag - Austria Nuno Júdice - Portugal

Friday May 10

Paul Durcan - Ireland John F. Deane - Ireland James Kelman - Scotland R.S. Thomas - Wales

Saturday May 11 Ewald Murrer - Czech Republic Jim Barnes - USA Abdullah al-Udhari - Yemen

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The Guardian

transport by asking

Sketch

New party mould for the jelly set



Martin Wainwright

NK and wobbly things bave an affinity with May Day holidays, whether marching in miners' galas or forming as concepts in the minds of socialist

In the accommodating world of New Labour, however, what could be more suitable, pink and quivering than luscious jellies — spread out for eager queues at the National Jelly Festival for

"Mummy look — a jelly fish!" punned Amy Taylor, of Bradford, stretching to her full, eight-year-old height in the House, Lord Harewood's stately home on the edge of

Mummy made strawberry jellies for my birthday," she confided to a circle of jellophiles, "But she forgot them. We ate them all next day.

Watching rather than eating was the rule at the Bank Holiday novelty, as food histo-rian Peter Brears whisked learnedly through the annals of jelly — as rich, ambitious and repetitive as anything in socialist May Day rhetoric. "This is what the Ameri-

cans consider the latest thing," he said, brandishing a fake half-dozen egg-box mould for making six ovoid minijels. "But look along here.... True to the adage 'What Manchester thinks today, the rest of the world thinks tomor-row', a Mrs Raffald from Alex Ferguson's city was on to jelly

eggs in 1750."
"And what about these?" cried Mr Brears, looking like the chief priest of Jellianity in an ankle-length, white, Victorian cooking robe. "Jelly eggs with yellow yolks and white white from 16th century

Much like Blair and Peter Mandelson's customerfriendly policies, jelly also emerged from the day as the kitchen's all-purpose, adapt-

Edward Greenfield

HEN Lorin Maazel announced his plan last year to spend more time composing, after

retiring as music director of

chestra, few really believed

him. To everyone's surprise

he has promptly vindicated

more than half an hour, writ-

cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. Maazel conducted three

premiere performances of his Music for Cello and Orchestra

at Heinz Hall, Pittsburgh, over

the weekend. Rostropovich pointed out afterwards that

this was the 104th cello work

that his playing has prompted and glowingly put it alongside

the acknowledged master-pieces written for him by Pro-

kofiev, Shostakovich and Lu-

toslawski. There is no doubt

that Maazel, in firmly control-

ling a large and original struc-ture, and masterfully drawing

striking sounds from a large

orchestra, has surpassed all expectations. All this when

many were expecting a mere

tended to be severely intellec-

tual, even cold, and his compo-

sitions lightweight, the new work strikes quite a different

note, far deeper, more in-volved. Maazel is now over 65,

and one might note another

sign of change — his exuber-

Philharmonic's New Year

Ian Katz in New York

VETERAN actor George C Scott was undergoing

tests in a Malibu hospital

yesterday after falling seri-

ously ill after his personal

assistant alleged sexual

Mr Scott, who has gar-

concerts, where he cut a joy-ful, relaxed figure.

If Maazel's image has

occasional piece.

midable concerto lasting

the Pittsburgh Symphony Or-

Surpassing all

expectations

Review

able and accommodating star. Mr Brears observed to a headnodding WI party of jelly ex-perts: "What other substance can you think of which can be transparent, opaque, absorbs any colour or flavour and sets to any shape you want?" Out-side politics, they knew of

There was, however, one flaw — in spite of the fantastic shapes and designs of the festival jellies, from Amy's trans parent jellypond with fish and underwater plants to a patriotic Danish jelly — red with a white jelly cross inside, so that every slice resembled the

national flag.
"How do you get a jelly out of its mould without it break-ing?" asked an anxious punter, though it was unlikely he was thinking of the SDP's

"Don't use Pyrex, don't use pottery, don't use plastic," was the best Mr Brears could do --- copper or glass are the nearest thing to an answer. Faces round the table fell, all admitting to cupboards stacked with plastic space ship, rabbit and Ninja Turtle moulds like the one in a corne of Mr Brears' display.

Upstairs, in the dining room overseen by endless oil-painted Earls of Harewood, a rosy-cheeked mum dressed as a Victorian serving girl super-vised a festive table set for 20 jelly maniacs. "I couldn't eat another jelly," she said, weakly offering round a potent Christmas pudding version (raisins and mincemeat encased in glaze) for a general miff. "I've been eating it since

Saturday morning." Waggish Laura Bowen. from Nottingham, nipped in and noticed the poor woman trembling under the weight of her plates: "Is that why you're shaking?"

Like New Labour, man continues to push forward the frontiers of jelly technology, with scientists at Rowntree Nestle in York trying to pinpoint exactly why the gelati-nous fruit pastille pastillises

Fizzy jelly — the word comes from the Latin gelatus meaning stiff or frozen — is now an household possibility, but the enzymes which prevent fresh kiwi or pineapple jelly from setting remain, like Arthur Scargill, a stubborn obstacle to the universal tri-

Like most works by per-former-composers, the Music for Cello and Orchestra is

largely eclectic in style and

specific influence. This is

unashamedly tonal, but it is to

Magzel's credit that there is no

Maazel's own voice, occasion-

with a distant echo of the mor lyrical Bartok, but consis-

clearly marked out, using dif-

ferent combinations of instru-

ments, with writing of cham-

terrifyingly fierce passages

Manzel has even managed

to remain himself in making

one section "a soulful blues d ta 1913 New Orleans" and in

for brass and percussion.

another introducing "an

trivial or inconsistent. If one would have liked

Rostropovich to have had

more scope to shine on his

own, that was a disappoint-

ment of the occasion, not the work. What matters is the rapt

intensity culminating in the

equivocal close, a deeply reflective epilogue with com-mentary from an off-stage vio-

meditations.

Maazel also showed that he

can write with a sense of fun. Monaco Fanfares, for large

wittily re-creates the military ceremony that takes place

home in Monaco. No doubt it has repeatedly disturbed his peace, but here it inspires

muste not just bright and col-

ourful but sensuous in places.

leading to a fortissimo climax

worthy of Charles Ives in its

way revival of Inherit The Wind, was accused last

week of repeatedly attempt-

ing to kiss and grope his

Ms Wright, a 26-year-old

film student, claimed the

Oscar-winning star of Pat-ton: Lust For Glory made unwanted advances

towards her after hiring her

assistant, Julia Wright.

clashes of key.

Actor George C Scott ill after

nered rave reviews for his last year. She is suing the ac-

performances in a Broad- tor for \$3.1 million.

claims he groped assistant

wind-band and percussion.

every morning outside his

lin set against the cello's

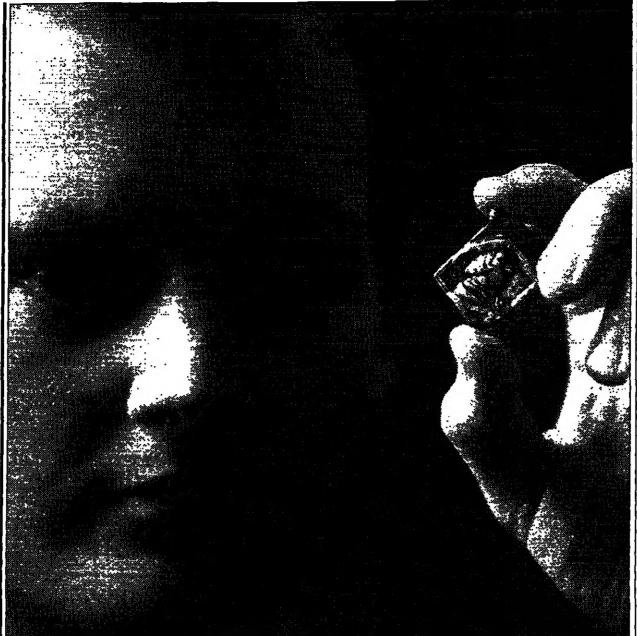
organ grinder-like waltz tune". Neither stands out as

tently distinctive over the

eight main sections, each

ber clarity set against

ally - as at the very start -



Porter's curiosity delivers Maximilian from antique obscurity

EDWARD DIXON with the lethe 16th century medal he found trapped behind a drawer in a table due to be auctioned. Mr Dixon, who works in Bonham's advertising department, was doing overtime as a porter when curiosity led him to rummage inside the Italian walnut table.

any more secret drawers," he said. "I was examining the way it was made and took out one of the drawers. I happened to bend down and at the very back saw something caught

"It's a game the porters | lead foil from the top of an | tion, in 1994, fetched play — seeing if there are old wine bottle, but after he | £8,250. had extracted the object with Sellotape fixed to the end of a ruler, the medal department identified it as a silver medal struck for the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I by Hans Reinhart under a piece of paper." the Elder in the mid-1500s.

He first took it to be the The last one sold at aucthe Elder in the mid-1500s.

The medal will be sold together with other Renaissance plaquettes in the art and antiques collection of Sylvia Adams, the owner of the table. The collection is expected to fetch £3 million over the next fortnight.

Ebert Foundation in Bonn.

co-operation (who) use

today's failures as an argu-ment for less co-operation. It

is these people who have cap-tured the Conservative Party

and used the term 'European'

as a term of abuse". Tomor-

row he will meet Hans Tiet-meyer, President of the

Bundesbank, to discuss the

implications of a Labour

When the music stops,

government.

Clampdown on schools in inner city

Education Correspondent

CHOOL inspectors are to be given sweep ing powers to investigate education authorities where standards of reading and numeracy are

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, will announce the move in an attempt to focus growing concern over literacy at primary schools on Labour-run inner city council

A report by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) showing that eight out of 10 seven-year-olds in the London boroughs of Islington. Southwark and Tower Hamlets are behind in reading has been criticised as politically slanted by the au-thorities who collaborated in

the study.

But Mrs Shephard is backing Chris Woodhead, the head of Ofsted, who redrafted the report and sharpened its criticisms to the fury of the boroughs. Now Mr Wood-head, as HM Chief Inspector, will be given powers to investigate standards across an authority as well as inspect individual schools.

After the publication of today's report it is inconceivable that other authorities will volunteer to produce joint studies with Ofsted. Mrs Shephard will make it clear that inspectors will be given powers to conduct similar investigations in inner city

As well as turning the spotlight on Labour-run councils, Conservatives hope the report will embarrass the

who lives in Southwark, rejected the option of local secondary schools for their

day that Mrs Shephard was trying to catch up with its own published plans for Ofsted and the Audit Commission to investigate education authorities. Under the proposals, authorities would have to produce development plans to raise standards on the model of Labour-run Birmingham.

"Gillian Shephard is showing a belated interest in literacy having axed the reading recovery programme. The real issue is how standards of literacy are improved in these boroughs. They are already developing schemes and will get on with the job whether or not she is playing political football with the report." said the source.

Anne Worsley, chairwoman of Southwark's education committee, criticised Mr Woodhead's 'pre-planned po-litical agenda''. The draft report had been altered from a version which was helpful to teachers and schools to one intended to make political capital, she said.

Phil Kelly, Islington's education chairman, said the borough had instigated a £1 million literacy programme to improve the teaching of reading in its 57 primary schools. "What authorities need is assistance in improving our teaching technique, not another whinge Mr Woodhead is as much use in the battle for higher standards as a chocolate teapot - he should resign."

Concern over reading standards began to grow with the publication of last year's Labour leadership. Tony national test results for Blair, who lives in Islington, year-olds in which half and Harriet Harman, the part to reach the target level. national test results for 11 year-olds in which half failed

Brown determined to press on with axing older pupils' benefit

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspond

■HE shadow chancellor. Gordon Brown, indicated yesterday that he intends to press shead with controversial proposals to scrap child benefit for 16 to 19-year-olds, despite the furi-ous opposition of left-wing members of the Shadow Cabinet, who fear a weakening of Labour's commitment to helping children stay on at school.

Mr Brown made his decision known after Tories seized on the Shadow Cabinet split as a sign the Labour's welfare reforms were "a big

Party officials were furious that the row is overshadow-ing the wider debate about more fundamental reforms for the welfare state, which will be tackled by the shadow Chris Smith, in a speech

Writing in today's Guardian, Mr Smith stresses that Labour plans to "bring forward proposals to improve, not diminish, the incentives for pupils to stay on at school or opt for further education".

In his speech he will high-light Labour's "benefit to work" plans, involving "greater dignity" for individ-

series of tough choices, but just the generation of young said the present system of people but piling up problems



Gordon Brown ... action or 'problems will haunt us' Gordon Brown

education funding for over 16s must be scrapped because it was not working.

He made it clear that he is unwilling to back down on his

central proposal to end child benefit for the 1.1 million 16 to 19-year-olds in full-time education, releasing an esti-mated £700 million for children from poorer families.

Despite suggestions over the weekend that Mr Blair had forced Mr Brown to drop the plan because of the left-wing backlash, Mr Brown said: "If we don't tackle these uals while slashing Britain's soaring welfare bill.

Mr Brown stressed yester day that Labour was facing a that Labour was facing a then we will be failing not

that will haunt us for many | to an integrated Europe, years to come." Mr Brown is particularly unhappy about the unfairness of the current system, with a quarter of the recipients of the 16 to 19-yearolds in private education.

The plans have alarmed some of the "soft left" — notably Mr Smith, David Blun- Mr Brown will attack "the optett, the shadow education secretary, and the shadow trade and industry secretary

Yesterday a senior party member told the Guardian: "To say that there is a sizeable groundswell of opinion against this is an understatement. We believe we have everything to fight for." Leftwingers in the Shadow Cabinet are encouraged by their victory in persuading Tony Blair to ditch the Government's Job Seekers Allowance — a move strongly op-posed by Mr Brown and his

shadow treasury team. Labour party sources stressed that a final decision was months away.

The Social Security Secretary, Peter Lilley, said Labour's welfare reforms were "a big disaster".

"It is becoming clear that the shadow chancellor's plan to end child benefits for the deeply unpopular in the country and with more sen-Cabinet because it is a perni-cious tax on learning." he

• Mr Brown will today reaffirm Labour's commitment

Tory MPs granted £400,000 tax amnesty over company car use

continued from page 1 high because it is designed to buy a new car every three years and covers maintenance and insurance as well while expressing some cau-tion by stressing the imporas petrol. But MPs who are given company cars as a ditance of reforms to areas such rector's perk or charge their as the Common Agriculture Policy. In a speech to German none of the costs of raplacefinance ministers and busiment, tax or insurance. nessmen at the Frederick

shadow financial secretary to of an MPs' position to seek a meeting with Treasury minis-ters to discuss the taxation of MPs' allowances.

"It also raises the question about whether MPs are get-ting a double benefit for the depreciation of the car." The situation came to light when tax officials spotted that some MPs were claiming their parliamentary mileage allowance while getting the

liamentary mileage as a bene-fit in kind. In some cases it sought seven years' back tax. This move led Mr Dorrell to agree to meet Mr Stern and another unnamed Tory MP on behalf of up to 20 Conservatives. Mr Stern told the Guardian: "It was strictly on nent, tax or insurance. the general application of the Nick Brown, former law to try to clarify the position of whether the allowance Mr Brown will attack "the op-ponents of greater European think it a considerable abuse to any other car. It was unsuccessful . . . So I later appealed over the issue and I got a ruling that it could apply to any

tax at 40 per cent on the par-

Michael Jack, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The ministers conerned and the Inland Revenue are clear that members did not receive more favourable tax treatment. Since the ruling. MPs with

company cars have negoti-ated lower mileage rates with perks of a company car. The ated lower mileage rates Revenue demanded income the Commons fees office.

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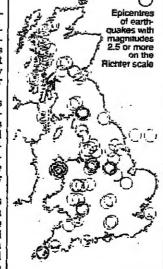
Earthquake rattles crockery in the Potteries Tim Radford

HE earthquake that rattled crockery in the Pot-teries, set off security alarms and shocked people awake at Burslem at 4.50am yesterday registered 2.6 on the Richter

This is about eight times smaller than the 3.4 earth-quake which rattled teacups in Shrewsbury. Telford and Oswestry in March but the effects were more dramatic because the focus of earthquake was only 2.6 kilometres below the surface.

"I was in bed when I was awakened by a sound like a door banging. The whole house and bed shook." said Gilbert Leek, aged 68, from Hanley. "We have had small tremors in this part of the world before, but people are not really worried."

Yesterday's shock was felt as far away as Crewe in Cheshire. In Burslem, pictures fell off walls and ornaments were shaken off shelves. One woman ran out into the street, in her nightdress. Police at Newcastle under Lyme felt the tremor. and received reports of "loud



shaking and rattling."

Seismologists at the British Geological Survey (BGS) in Edinburgh said: "That is a classic description of a primary wave, reflecting into a sound wave and causing the bang. It was followed by a secondary wave which caused

Alice Walker, of the BGS, said: "Although it was a small quake, we believe it was felt so beavily because it was so

any damage to buildings; it was not violent enough for that, but it was enough to wake thousands of people and upset animals and pets."
In February last year a 2.5 scale tremor hit Stoke, and yesterday's Burslem earth-quake was prefaced on Sunday by a 1.6 event. Britain is not — like Japan. California and New Zealand — on a tectonic frontier, but it does have between 300 and 400 earthquakes a year. Very few of them cause damage and only about 12 people are thought to have been killed in the last 500 years. The last known earthquake victim is believed to have

fallen downstairs after being awoken in a state of alarm during a tremor in North Wales in 1940. She later died of her injuries. Most British earthquakes are much less violent than the ones that shook Kobe in Japan, Northridge in Califor-

nia or Maharashtra in India in recent years. There have been a number of magnitude 6 earthquakes in the North Sea, but the largest earthquake on land — at 5.4 — was in Gwyn-

edd in 1984.

en real cats 11.75p per min (10p + VAT)





1985 Oleg Gordievsky, a former KGB agent in London, escapes to Britain from Moscow, after a decade of spying for

@1989

11 British diplomats and journalists are expelled from the Soviet Union in a titfor-tat after Britain expelled the same number of alleged Soviet spies, shortly after Gorbachev made an apparently successful visit to Britain.

a 1991 Foreign secretary Douglas Hurd tells Russia to end its "large-scale intelligence activity" in Britain.

9 1993

weapons

programme. He had been recruited 20



- tatu in the balance and the second

years earlier by Michael Smith, Victor Oschenko, a electronics engineer, KGB agent who defected to Britain in is sentenced to 25 years for passing 1992. secrets to Russia. including details of Britain's nuclear-



Aldrich Ames, a senior CIA officer, is arrested and accused of selling secrets to Moscow since 1985, when he exposed Gordievsky and 13 CIA agents in Russia.

@ 1994, March Vadim Sintsov, a Russian working for the equivalent of Britain's Defence Research Agency confesses to passing secrets to MI6.



6 1996, Feb London in tit-for-tat. Moscow deports a **9**1995 British businessman, **Alexander Malikov** Nigel Shakespear. London He was also among correspondent for those expelled in Russian TV 1989, when he was station, Britain's assistant Ostankino, military attache. expelled.

91995

Russian Federal

Security Service

expelled more than

50 foreign agents.

claims to have

identified and

#1996, March MI5 says Russian intelligence services "have renewed their efforts to post intelligence officers in London".

Open season puts cat among mice

Political alarm as chaos lets in spies

David Hearst in Moscow and Richard Norton-Taylor

Boris Yeltsin's destruction of Soviet n has Union achieved in the last five years, one fact remains clear. it has provided a field day for Western intelligence services out to recruit informers in the once potent Russian mili-

tary industrial complex. Two years ago, the Russian federal counter intelligence service (FCS) announced it had uncovered more spies in 1994 than in the previous five old KGB empire may be feet to seven years. According to the FCS, after the KGB was dismantled in 1991 with its major services being centralised, the world's leading intelligence agencies enjoyed an opportunity of "almost untroubled" operation in Russia, establishing networks sweeping over the Russian state and its political

structures.
All the conditions necessary to recruit foreign agents pertained: loss of the state's authority, poor territorial integrity and the emergence of Russia's so-called "glass borders", poor wages, and a world turned upside down where street traders could earn more than a nuclear

Above all, patriotic Russians lost their national pride, the self-belief in a tran- gence agencies of undermin-

sitional period which was I more a revolution than a turbulent reform.
The chaos of post-commu-

nist reform provided conditions analagous to the Soviet Union's most effective recruitment period in Western Europe, the collap Nazi Germany. Leonid She-barshin, the last head of KGB's First Chief Directorate, the largest spy network in the world, said the same was now happening now in reverse. In today's Russia, with only

six weeks to go before a pivhead of the Federal Security Service (FSB), responsible for uncovering and arresting the Russian who allegedly confessed to working for Mi6, is himself in a b publicity.

Mr Barsukov has not enjoyed a good reign since he emerged from beneath the patronage of Lt General Alex-ander Korzhakov, the head of the presidential bodyguard, to take the most politically exposed job in the "force minis-tries". The last time he took personal command of an operation was against Chechen hostage takers — and that ended in humiliation.

Earlier this year, Mr Yelt-sin accused western intelli-





Mikhail Barsukov (top left), head of the organisation that arrested a Russian who allegedly worked for MI6; Alexander Korzhakov, head of the presidential bodyguard; and the British embassy in Moscow MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: ALEXANDER NATRUSKIN

tial and of organishne a brain drain of the country's most talented military scientists. Before an election it is important to show the FSB is active. As the Russian proverb goes when talking about someone who is not doing his job well: "He is not catching mice." By catching a British spy, the FSB is showing that the Russism cat is not entirely asleep.
"The FSB is looking for a
spy at any price." Oleg Gordievsky, the KGB defector
now living in Britain, said
last night. "A political gesture in the middle of an elecnuclear programme and high technology military-indus-

Yeltsin is natriotic and about the West." According to the FSB's published statements, western in telligence agencies are primarily interested in Russia's ogy for use its own stealth strategy in future co-opera-tion with other countries in weapons programme. Russia also has a lead in low-flying its Confederation of Indepenaqua-planes, a technology dent States. They want to know how Russia plans to respond to the eastward expansion of Nato, as well the po-tential capability of its

This, says the FSB, places

ing Russia's military poten- | tion campaign shows that | the underpaid workers of the | intercontinental ballistic misdefence ministry's industrial sile fleet. complex at risk. Russia still has many high technology se-crets, particularly in the field of light metal alloy technol-

> being developed in its defence factories in Nizhni Novgorod. The West is seeking better control of Russia's nuclear stockpile. It wants to know how much weapons-grade plutonium and high enriched uranium are being held as a

Since the end of the cold war, MI6 has reduced the amount of resources devoted to Russia by fwo-thirds. A clue to its priorities is contained in a recent report from parliament's intelligence and security committee. It said that while White-hall's intelligence analysts

did not believe Russia posed any "direct military threat", it retained "a formidable strategic capability". It added that Russian military equip-ment was being "aggressively result of the dismantling of its marketed around the world".

A throwback to the bad old days

ian Black

ANGLO-RUSSIAN relations have undergone as sea-change since the end of the cold war, but yesterday's expulsion of diplobassy in Moscow is a chilly throwback to the bad old

days. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has repeatedly said that Brit-ain's greatest international concern is stability in Russia — facing a key test as Boris Yeltsin is challenged by Gennady Zyuganov, the communist candidate, in next month's presidential elections.

Specifically, Britain worries about effective control of Russia's still-mighty nuclear arsenal and, generally, about the continuation of the country's reform process, personified by Mr Yeltsin. Suggestions at the weekend that the June 16 election might be postponed caused alarm.

Yet the dangers of identi-fying too closely with President Yeltsin were under-lined during last month's Moscow summit. Publicly endorsing Mr Yeltsin, the Prime Minister, John Major, was given a none-

have changed beyond recognition since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Queen's visit to Moscow and St Petersburg in Octo-ber 1994 set the tone of a new level of relations. Britain has worked hard

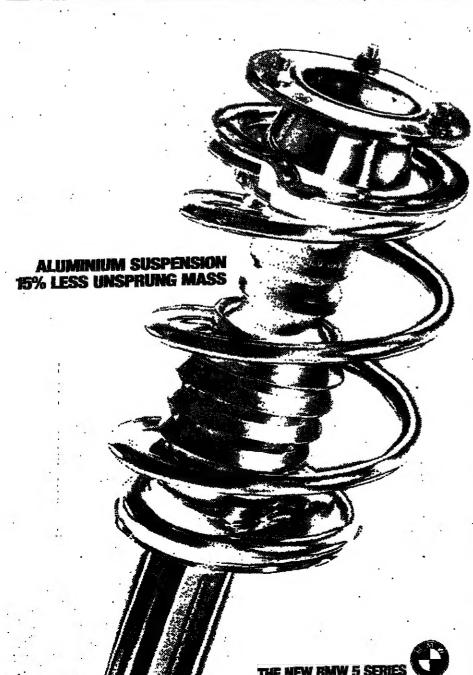
within the European Union to build friendly ties with Russia, but sharp disagree-ments over Bosnia, the war in Chechenis and angry reactions from Moscow to Nato expansion have caused frictions.

Bilaterally, Britain has helped Russia's transition and has backed loans from the International Monetary Fund. Royal Air Force crews have inspected Russian airfields and British ministers have

ships on the Kola peninsula. There has even been quiet co-operation between the two countries' intelligence and security services in areas such as terrorism

and organised crime.
But Britain has found that its ability to influence Russia's policies is ex-tremely limited as Moscow takes a more assertive view of its international role. Last night, allegations of

spying were being seen in the wider context of Rus-sia's volatile domestic poliganov to stay out of fuel concern that the Russia's internal affairs. On the face of it, things | Britain is becoming fragile.



Pilgrims pay homage to the man with the golden shares

Mark Tran in Omaha

HERE was a time when the annual meeting of Berkshire Hathaway, the phe-nomenally successful investment company run by Warren Buffett, was a cosy affair. But now the event has taken on the trappings of the Super Bowl as thousands make the pilgrimage to Omaha.

overtook Microsoft's Bill Gates as America's richest man, has a net worth of \$16.6 billion (£11 billion) according to Forbes magazine. The annual meeting's fes

Mr Buffett, who recently

tivities traditionally begin with Saturday's baseball game, featuring the Omaha Royals, partly owned by Mr Bullett of course. That was followed by Sun-day's reception for more than

5,000 shareholders at Borsheim's jewellery store, where a queue snaked past the world's biggest diamond, the Golden Jubilee, a 545carat monster on loan from

Yesterday, in the huge Pal-ace ballroom of the Holiday Inn Convention Centre, Mr Buffett, with his partner and friend Charlie Munger at his side, got down to business, answering questions from early morning until the afternoon. The event has ballooned to (£62 million) today.

such an extent, that three overflow rooms were booked and most people watched Mr Buffett on six giant video screens — prompting one of the elderly stockholders to complain that the Legend was losing touch with reality.

In this year's letter to his shareholders he compared his two-pronged approach of either buying entire companies or buying a modest per-centage to a line from Woody Allen: "The real advantage of being bisexual is that it doubles your chance for a date on a Saturday night." Mr Buffett has a penchant for Hollywood lines, also quoting Mae West: "It's not what you've got — it's what you do with what you've got."

You usually hear two refrains from investors in Berkshire Hathaway, which has invested in insurance, newspapers, and consume product companies: they wish they had bought more and earlier. Most of the shareholders at the annual meeting own one, two or three shares - Berkshire Hathaway shares are the most expensive on Wall Street, going for well over \$30,000 (£20,000) a share. If someone had invested \$10,000 (26,700) with Mr Buf-fett when he began in Omaha in 1958 and stuck with him he



During the promotion of the heavyweight title fight between Lennox Lewis and Tony Tucker, Maloney became the subject of a 'sustained and ferocious campaign of vilification' from the court of Don King



Detectives to be given spy rights

CRIME bill to be introduced this autumn will provide statutory powers for detectives to plant listening de-vices or hidden cameras in the homes of suspects.

But the bill, which will also establish a national crime squad, may not harmonise police powers with those of MI5, the Home Office admitted yesterday. There has been heavy police lobbying for an end to the twin-track system by which authority is granted in different ways to the two services to place electronic bugs and spy cameras.

Chief constables fear MI5 intends to monopolise sur-veillance work and that its postion will be strengthened by the Security Service Bill due to become law this sum-mer. Under this bill, MI5 officers will be entitled to install listening devices once they have a warrant from the

Reform of system triggered by the case of Sultan Khan

Home Secretary. The police have been hiding bugs and video equipment under Home Office guidelines introduced in 1984 which require the authority of only a chief constable. There is no statutory framework and evidence derived from electronic bugs is being challenged in the courts

Pressure for surveillance to be given a legal framework came initially from the police but reform of the authorisa-tion system has been triggered by the case of Sultan Khan, now before the Law

was convicted of heroin dealing after conversations were overheard on an electronic listening device. In court his lawyers have questioned the legitimacy of placing a bug on a private house and whether the information obtained should have been available to the prosecution. The Law Lords' ruling is awaited. though the case may eventu-

During the earlier stages of

senior police officers pressed for a unified system, with police and MI5 being granted permission by a court. But MI5 preserved its relation-ship with the Home Secretary as the sole authority for its

bugging warrants.
The civil rights organisation Liberty has criticised the Home Secretary being given such wide discretion. "We would want a decision on a [bugging] warrant made by a circuit judge," John Wadham, the director of Liberty, said yesterday. "That would ensure they would have to do it in a more professional way. We are concerned that there will be inadequate controls."

Bill Taylor, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' crime committee, said: "We are concerned that tion, we have a twin-track system: one where MI5 has a tatutory basis and one where the police do not."

use bugs in cases where they have strong suspicions but are unable to prove a case. Bugs were used successfully last year after accountant Grant Price was kidnapped and killed, when a listening device placed in the home of a suspect was played to a jury and helped to convict him.

Devices were also used in the investigation of the murder of the young black man Stephen Lawrence. A camera and recorder were installed in the home of a suspect and violent racist remarks were recorded, but the case collapsed for other reasons 10 days ago.
During the investigation of

Rosemary West, who was con-victed of 10 murders last year, devices were hidden in the safe houses where she was kept after the arrest of her husband Fred and the discovery of bodies at her home in Gloucester. She made no incriminating remarks.

While the Price, Lawrence and West cases involved par-ticularly unpleasant murders. the police are conscious there would be less public sympa-thy if they were to bug the people whose alleged offences — such as animal rights or environmental activism have a political perspective.

A Home Office spokes

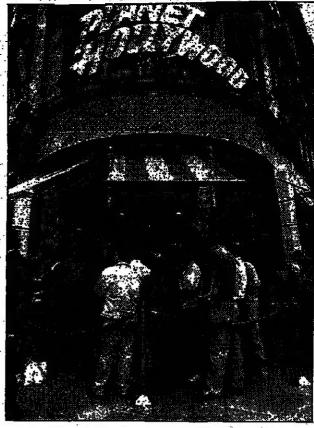
woman yesterday confirmed that no decision has been made on whether police bugging warrants will be signed by the Home Secretary or apthe Security Service Bill proved by two judges.





Naomi Campbell yesterday ceremonially starts building work on London's Fashion Café, due to open in the summer as a rival to the nearby branch (above right) of the Planet Hollywood chain

PHOTOGRAPHS: SAKON KREITEM FORM MAYES



HR theme was more cuisine than couture, but hundreds of enthusiastic spectators did not seem to mind as supermodel Naomi Campbell officially launched the start of building work on Europe's first Fashion Café yesterday.

The venue, a foray into off-catwalk enterprise by Campbell and fellow models Claudia Schiffer, Elle Macpherson and Christy Turlington, will be the lat-est seeking to serve Lon-don's growing appetite for

themed restaurants. The Fashion Cafe, curiously featuring the favourite dishes of the wafer-thin models, will also allow diners to muse over fashion memorabilia, including the Valentino wedding dress modelled by Sharon Stone and one of Madonna's

Yesterday's launch sig-nals the first round in the Fashion Cafe's fight to knock out Sylvester Stalone, co-owner of Plane successful cinema theme restaurant is across the road from its site in Coventry Street, near Leicester

Another theme restaurant competitor, the popular Sports Café, is nearby in

the Haymarket.
The quartet of models has already established restaurants in New York and New Orleans, with others planned for Barcelona, Ja-

carta and Manila. At an elaborate and some times chaotic photo-call yesterday, which attracted hundreds of tourists and passers-by, Campbell, in Café T-shirt, said: "We expect to be open in mid-summer, and we look forward to seeing you then.'

Loyalist bomb hoax in Dublin

carried out on a car at the air-

Meet Robbie.

He called 0800 494 999

HE loyalist ceasefire continued to disintegrate yesterday after an Ulster Volunteer Force bomb hoax at Dublin airport. A controlled explosion was

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regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only advises on its own life acturance, persons and was trusts. Robbie is a figureal character but his story is based on a real Middent customer BE-SA

Robbie got £750 when he

took out his very first

mortgage with Midland.

recognised code word was received by a Belfast news-paper. Irish army spokesmen confirmed that there were no explosives in the vehicle.

In the warning a man said mid-Ulster UVF volunteers had planted two 10lb Powergel bombs on the airport runway and in a car park. The caller said the UVF port early yesterday, after a telephone warning using a

a "had overcome very high se-a curity" to plant the bombs.

"Your government have | known as the Combined Loylaughed off our words but they will not mack our deeds The people of the Irish Republic will pay a very high price," the caller said.

David Ervine, leader of the

Progressive Unionist Party, which has UVF links, said the hoax had "undoubtedly" emanated from that organisation.
"My hope is that they will rein back. There is still a loy-

the Dublin hoax as "a shot across the bows", although this could have been meant as much a warning to the UVF eadership as to the Irish

overnment Loyalist dissent has been steadily growing since the IRA bombed Canary Wharf

on February 9. It has also exacerbated tensions between the UVF and the Ulster Defence Association, the larger paramilitary grouping, who together oper injured when loyalists ate a council-style leadership | bombed Dublin airport.

'It is tepid

or flavour.

dishwater soup, without character

inhabiting some

cardboard world 20 years out of

- Polly Toynbee (right)

date, in some imaginary middle

suburbia'

alist Military Command. A

senior UDA figure said there was considerable anger with the UVF for failing to consult them before the Dublin hoax. Powergel is a commercial explosive used by the UVF in a number of bomb attacks before its October 1994

In May that year it planted a bomb in a Dublin pub where a republican function was The loyalist terrorists shot dead an IRA man guarding the door.

A few days after the IRA began its ceasefire, the UVF exploded a car bomb outside Sinn Fein offices on the Falls Road in west Belfast.

Sources say the UVF now has significant quantities of explosive and has perfected its bomb-making abilities. In November 1975 a man was killed and several others

News in brief

Help for 'stalking' legislation refused

THE Government yesterday rejected a plea to help introduce legislation which would make stalking a crime. The Home Secretary Michael Howard was asked to ensure that a private member's bill from Janet Anderson, the Labour MP for Rossen dale & Darwen, go through unopposed in a second reading on

Home Office minister David MacLean said later that although the Government shared the concerns about stalkers, he had reservations about the bill. "I fully understand and sympese with what Janet Anderson is trying to achieve." he said. It was feared its scope could be too wide and it could criminalise legitimate activities. "For example journalists door-stepping a politician could find themselves falling foul of the law."

Caution urged on costs

PLANS by Lord Woolf to limit the legal costs losers will have to pay to winners in smaller court cases could be a disaster if the pay to which it is all a court cases could be a disaster if the figures are set too low, the Law Society warms today. The law lord is to publish a blueprint this summer for a shake-up of civil justice to make it simpler, quicker and cheaper. Claims of up to £10,000 will be dealt with on a "fast track", with losers limited to a fixed sum in costs, still to be decided.

The society supports the move. It says potential litigants will have a much better idea of their financial risk, but warns: "Fixing the costs to be paid by the loser at too low a level could be a disaster; lawyers would have to reduce the quality of service to clients in many smaller cases and some winning litigants could be out of pocket," says the society. — Clare Dyer

Dead woman 'took pill'

DETECTIVES investigating the death of a policeman's daughter after allegedly taking ecstasy have confirmed that she was seen taking a pill in a nightclub. Claire Pierce, aged 23, daughter of Superintendent Roy Pierce of the Nottinghamshire force, was

Superintendent Roy Pierce of the Nottinghamshire force, was found dead on a sofa after an all-night party.

Simon Wright, 20, who was host of the party in Meden Vale, Mansfield, said he was told that Claire, who worked with her mother as a bereavement counsellor, had taken ecstasy at the Progress nightchib in Derby.

A post mortem proved inconclusive and police are awaiting a toxicology report due tomorrow.

'Stupidvision' swipe at BBC TV

FORMER senior jour-nalist at the BBC yester-day branded daytime Polly Toynbee, former social affairs correspondent on BBC News, said it looked cheap, lacked character and

was 20 years out of date. She launched her attack in the Radio Times and asked readers to send in suggestions for alternative daytime programmes to replace the

"weary grunge of the past".

But the BBC last night pointed out that most of its daytime programmes were popular — and said it had al-ready announced a rethink of morning shows following the scrapping of its Good Morn-ing with Anne and Nick. Toynbee said the rivalry be-

ween that show and This Morning with Richard and Judy on ITV was often more lively off screen than on. She went on to attack most daytime television on BBC and ITV, saying: "Most of it looks cheap and designed for no one in particular -- perhaps some computerised calculation of the lowest com-

"It is tepid dishwater soup, without character or flavour, inhabiting some cardboard world 20 years out of date, in some imaginary middle

"It is stupidvision - where most of the presenters look like they have to pretend to be stupid because they think their audience is. In other words, it patronises."

Daytime television was a professional "graveyard"

with a lack of new ideas or risky formats. There were some exceptions, like Can't Cook, Won't Cook, Ready Steady Cook and the "magic insanity" of Supermarket Sweep — "a kind of shoppers on ecstasy", she said. A BBC spokesman said:

"These are Polly Toynbee's personal views — and some what belated given the annew BBC schedule is in prep-

aration for next autumn. "The planning process has involved extensive consultations with viewers and research into daytime audience opinions and expectations, but we are always happy to listen to fresh opinions."

Forecast defended

UNEXPECTED sunshine brought out the Bank holiday crowds

UNEXPECTED sunshine brought out the Bank holiday crowds yesterday after weathermen had forecast a chilly and cloudy conditions. They admitted the holiday was brighter than expected, but stressed that temperatures were far from summery. In Oxfordshire and the Midlands overnight temperatures dropped to -3C (27F) and other areas reported frost.

About 60,000 people turned out to watch an air show featuring Spitfires at Duxford. Cambridgeshire, clogging local roads and causing an eight-mile standstill on the Mil. War hero Air Vice Marshal "Johnnie" Johnson, 80, was forced to walk a mile and half to the gates of the airfield after being caught in traffic for more than three hours. more than three hours.

A spokesman for the London Weather Centre insisted the forecasts had not been too far out.

Two share jackpot

ONE of the two £11 million weekend National Lottery winners is a man from north-west England. The organisers said the other winner had yet to come forward. The two share a jackpot of \$21,806,396. Winning numbers: 6, 25, 26, 33, 34, 47. Bonus ball, 49.

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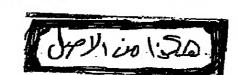
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Banks 'F from cha

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City offers 'levy' for transport

Ruesday May 1196

god battle

HE Treasury is resisting a new scheme pro-posed by the City to raise the funds for needed public transport projects by asking larger firms to pay what amounts to

voluntary taxes.

The blueprint, which is supported by the Corporation of London, would offer businesses a vote — or several votes for hig firms — on whether or not to back one. whether or not to back spe-cific transport schemes, from a local tramline to large pro-jects such as the long-stalled CrossRail link.

If a majority of firms in the scheme agreed, even those which voted no would be expected to pay up over several

Local authorities would collect the money on top of busi-

ness rates.

Whitehall's hostility is partly political — fear of covert tax — and partly the result of long-standing opposi-tion to the ring-fencing of gen-eral taxes for a defined purpose.

Despite fashionable support for the private finance initiative as a means of easing the tax burden, hardline Treasury officials may also claim that an "infrastructure levy" would count against the pub-lic sector borrowing

requirement.
Its supporters brush such objections aside. The revenue generated would guarantee income which would in turn generate more funds, if techniques developed in the United States can be adapted to British needs. Enthusiasts it need not be confined to public transport improvements, much needed in Lon-don and other cities.

Car park schemes, tree planting and even keeping streets free of vagrants are olg issues in Houston, Texas. where civic traditions are weak and and municipal powers slight But Treasury ministers, jittery about any idea that smacks of extra taxes, have been cool towards the City's suggestions.

In particular, ministers fear small businesses in the suburbs which already pay substantial sums under the unified business rate, could be forced out of business by such levies. Supporters say they could be excluded from the levy and the vote.

After a version of the unified business rate "supple-ment" was floated by London First, the lobby group chaired by Tory businessman Lord Shepherd, the Department of Transport was cautious.

It admitted that it "could be levied on larger businesses in central and inner London ... the idea is an interesting one which would have considerable attractions if it could be made to work on a genuinely volnutary basis".

But the department's transport strategy published last week stressed that London First's version was a tax and the spending which it sup-ported would be public expenditure. It still claimed to favour the private finance initiative approach that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is promoting.

A recent paper for the Greater London group at the London School of Economics said that at least £700 million a year for 10 years is needed to make up for past neglect on London's Underground alone. Alternatives to a levy could include extra taxes or road pricing - from which ministers have backed down in face of the motoring lobby.



Festival derided liquid asset

Martin Wainwright on a dam good do

LAGS, dancers and giant inflatable eggs in "Our Kielder", whose 44 billion gallon capacity brate a "white elephant" remained above 80 per cent reservoir which has be

come a regional life-saver in drought-striken Britain. Thousands of visitors are expected along the 27-mile shoreline of Kielder Lake in Northumbria on the last two weekends of this month, to mark the month, to mark the "unique, ever-changing" phant and making the lab mixture of forest and water, once condemned as water, once condemned as Europe," said Andrew Panting of Northumbrian Water vesterday. "There

Two hundred Northum-brian pipers will open a for-est trail designed by disabled young people, while students and a Dutch theatre company create an "entirely other" world on "entirely other" world on Bull Cragg, opposite plete since the Queen the Yorkshire rivers, and is Kielder's mile-long dam.

The festival will focus with water links allowing link only as a last resort.

Kielder to maintain flows in the rivers Type, Tees, even in last year's drought. Built in the 1970s to cope with a new British Steel

a wild valley and several hamlets and caused uproar. "The water board was accused of creating may-hem, building a white ele-

Water yesterday. "There were two public inquiries, and an outery when British Steel decided to move to South Wales instead." The shift in public opinDerwent and Wear. Kielder has also been important in attracting new

industry to the North-east, including a Siemens electronics plant on Tyneside and a Fujitsu one at Newton Aycliffe, which uses as much water every day as a town of 30,000 people. But the festival coincides with renewed controversy over Kielder, as drought-stricken Yorkshire com-

pletes plans for an emergency tap on the huge lake, via the Tees and new £45 million pipelines. The Envi-ronment Agency this week registered concern about Kielder's colder water de-



Banks 'profit from charity'

ting'

CITY consortium involving six of the main clearing banks has been lending cash to a government-funded charity for the disabled, according to a leaked accountant's report.

The allegation comes shortly before publication of a long-awaited National Audit Office inquiry examining the complex relationship between the charity Motability and its associated company, Motability Finance Limited, the largest car fleet operator in Britain.

Disabled clients of the charity have also been encouraged to buy unsuitable cars, for which MFL had fleet discounts, rather than cheaper and more appropriate vehi-cles. Channel 4's Dispatches programme claims tomorrow.

MFL, a joint venture between Barclays, NatWest, Midland. Lloyds, the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Bank of Scotland, has been at the centre of controversy throughout the last year. The problem has been exacer-bated by an accounting sys-tem which channels money through several companies. Critics of the scheme.

disabled since 1977, allege that MFL has been making undeserved profits by lending capital to Motability at above the market level of interest rates. The loans are devoid of backed by government-funded disability allowance payments.

An internal accountant's report, produced by the merchant bank Schroders for the governors of Motability in late 1995 and obtained by Dispatches, suggest that interest rates charged to the charity were higher than they should have been. "The current monies arranged in 1993 appear now to be out of line with the market," the report notes. In-stead of charging 1.25 per cent per annum they should have been charging 0.75 per cent, it

suggests.
Mick and Annette Reyn olds, of Nottingham, claim in the programme they were told they should lease a Ford Transit van even though it did not have room for an elec-

The Charlty Commissioners are in correspondence with Motability over the issue but are awaiting the NAO report, due to be published next month. Motability and MFL have declined to comment on the claims until the which has leased cars to the report has been published.

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Steel tubes used to correct heart malformation

Chris Mihill Medical Correspondent

ABIES born with a lifecan be helped by a procedure using steel tubes to hold the blood vessels open, heart specialists report today. Every year about 6,000

babies are born with congeni-tal malformations of the heart and blood vessels. In about 5 per cent the defect involves a narrowing of the artery which carries blood from the heart to the lungs. The resulttype of narrowing may suffer from shortage of breath. The condition can be difficult to treat surgically, and a number of procedures have been tried, but the obstruction can recur.

James Taylor and colleagues are today to tell the annual meeting of the British Cardiac Society in Glasgow of a successful approach using stents — tubes of stainless steel — to widen and support the narrowed section of the

ing obstruction can be life tended by the delicate positioning procedure is not always suctive abling, and children with this dure. Once in position the but this must be put into the

Ormond Street hospital for

blood vessel. The stents are guided at the end of a catheter, with an-other catheter over it to pre-

children, in London, said: "We have treated 23 patients aged between seven months

and 19 years, most of whom have had narrowing in one or both arteries to the lungs. In most cases we have achieved a permanent increase in the size of the vessel, a fall in blood pressure difference across the narrowed segment. and an improvement in the

natient's symptoms. "It must be made clear that this technically demanding

catheters are withdrawn. context of a progressively disleaving the stent in place. abling condition and the risk pumped out of the heart and of the petient.

Dr Taylor, from the Great of a further difficult surgical around the body. Elderly people can benefit

as well as younger ones from

repairs to a heart valve, surgeons will tell the meeting.
Mitral valve disease is common in the elderly and is a frequent cause of disability and death. The mitral valve is situated between the two left chambers of the heart (atrium and ventricle) and controls

If the valve becomes diseased and leaky, oxygenated early in the disease, before blood in the left ventricle—the condition of the patient public and produced the main pumping chamber had deteriorated, was one of guidelines for document for the left the most important factors in who needs a test."

the flow of blood between

Most patients tolerate a

moderate degree of leaking but become increasingly breathless, and heart failure develops. Diseased valves can be repaired surgically or replaced with an artificial valve.

Leonard Shapiro and colleagues in the regional cardiac unit at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, have studied 614 patients treated for mitral valve disease.

They found that operating

Many cholesterol tests are

being misdirected at people with a low risk of heart disease, while those at high risk are being missed, according to Caroline Morrison, a consultant in public health medicine with the Greater Glas-gow Health Board. She looked at some 400 people who had received cholesterol tests. About 40 per cent needed them because of heart disease or a number of risk factors — but 60 per cent of those tested

were at low risk. "We need to educate the public and produce better

Arson police talk LOU REED to man

David Pallister

MAN was being ques-tioned by police last night about an arson actack on a Southampton council house in which four brothers and sisters aged be-tween eight and 12 died. Their parents, Melvyn and

Beverly Good, and an older daughter, Kelly, aged 14, survived by scrambling out of a first floor window and on to a conservatory roof. Kelly was badly burned and is expected to be kept in the Odstock hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, for

at least a week.
After forensic scientists confirmed that the blaze was deliberate. Detective Superintendent Peter Neyroud said he was trying to find out if anyone had a grudge against the family. The man "helping the police with their inquiries" was found within a few bours of the fire in the South-

The fire started early on Sunday morning. The four who died from inhalation of toxic fumes — Terry, 12, Alli-son, 10, Nicola, eight, and Patrick six - were found on the floor of a back bedroom.

The police have not yet talked to the couple or Kelly in detail. "I don't want to Fryer, aged 76, who visited through the letter box.



Local children prepare flowers to leave at the scene of the Southampton fire in which four brothers and sisters died

"Four children have died. Words almost fail me. It is almost impossible to think of what must have gone through the mind of someone who may have set light to a house with a family in it."

push a family that is so the burned-out house in Sulli-heavily traumatised into an-swering questions." Supt Neyroud said. the burned-out house in Sulli-van Road, Sholing, said his daughter told him: "Dad, I wish none of us had woken un

Mrs Good's father. Thomas

and we'd all died together." Police are investigating reports of five men standing near the house shouting, "Burn, you bastards, burn" but would not confirm ac-

counts that Kelly saw a man

whom she knew pour petrol

Beef ban hopes recede

Stephen Bates in Brussels

■HE Government's hopes of securing at least a part lifting of the EU on British beef were receding last night as Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, lobbied his fellow minis

the Italian city of Otranto. ered to take decisions on lifting the ban. It comes less than seven days after the formal agriculture council in Luxem bourg, when Britain was warned that further measures would be needed, and ministers are still not prepared to reach an accommodation with the British government.

across Europe by an average of more than 30 per cent in the wake of the BSE scare, even in countries like Germany which were not importing British beef. Agriculture ministers have

warned that they want to see the effect of the British eradi-cation measures before their ban is lifted, and some have suggested this may not be before the end of the year.

Veterinary experts from all 15 member states will be meeting in Brussels today and tomorrow, but they will

Beef sales have alumped from the European Commis-across Europe by an average sion, which said yesterday it from the European Commis-sion, which said yesterday it was still not in a position to back lifting the ban

Meanwhile, the commis-sion will today announce that it is making a grant of more than £1 million to China for genetic improvement of its water buffaloes.
The project, which will

fund research into boosting the milk and meat yields of buffaloes in three provinces. to improve sources of urban food supplies, is to be an-nounced by Sir Leon Brittan, the trade commissioner, dur-

not be formally discussing the beef crisis or a lifting of the embargo on byproducts.

To do so, they would require a recommendation that the tominissioner, during a visit to China.

Teresa Gorman, the Tory Eurosceptic MP, yesterday described the grant as "ludicrous gesture politics".

Britain close to sweet victory over chocolate

Martin Wajnwright

BRITAIN is close to win-ning its "chocolate war" with rival states in Europe whose confection-ery lobbies are battling against the likes of chocolate oranges and Kit-Kat. A draft directive from the European Commission. released yesterday, recom-mends allowing local choice in the small but hotly-contested world of

Commissioners have snubbed a campaign to outlaw the small dose of vegetable oil traditional in Brit ain. "This is a victory for common sense," said Hugh Bayley, Labour MP for York. which houses Rown-

able that other European countries wanted to ban our traditional recipe. Europe has got to be flexi-ble and respect the differ-are expected to accept it.

pean Parliament, but both

tree Nestle and Terry's. "It ences between member was bizarre and unaccept- states." The draft must still be approved by the Council of Ministers and the Euro-



Spin-paintings and carved-up cows, cement-cast houses, foetus earrings and giant iron angels may excite comment and derision, but they have never equalled the bricks as a symbol

Communist urges candidates to respect outcome

Yeltsin promises poll will go ahead

ENNADY Zyuganov. the Russian Communist leader and main challenger to Boris Yeltsin, yesterday called on all candidates in next month's presidential election to sign a movements and sign an pact to abide by the outcome.

Mr Zyuganov made his call after a rocky 24 hours in Russian politics sparked by the suggestion by the president's chief bodyguard and closest political confidant, Lieutenant-General Alexander Korzhakov, that the election be postponed. Gen Korzhakov claimed the vote could lead to a civil war.

Gen Korzhakov was over-uled by President Yeltsin who said yesterday the election would go ahead. But Mr Yeltsin characteris-

tically muddled the waters by conceding that the general was not alone in believing a Communist victory could spark turmoii.

The president's pledge was swiftly welcomed by the Clin-ton administration. "We've stressed the importance of the June 16 election and the certainty of the democratic process," the White House ment, Gennady Seleznyov, spokesman, Mike McCurry. declared. Whether the Communists were returned to Yeltsin of "rocking the boat".

Speaking in Bonn, Mr Zyuganov said: "We must guarantee the elections are carried out in a strictly democratic. honest and legal fashion, and at the same time sit around a table with all the parties and agreement that the outcome of the election, as expressed by voters, will be sacred.

Earlier Mr Yeltsin was anything but convincing about his pledge to respect the wis-dom of Russian voters. "Korzhakov is not alone in thinking that a victory of Zyuganov would be the start of a civil war," he said.

In a separate interview with the Russian business magazine Delovye Lyudy, he likeued the possibility of Mr Zyuganov taking power to the Bolshevik revolution.

"I would not say today that the process of reform has cone so far that it cannot be reversed," Mr Yeltsin warned. "I am convinced that they [the Communists] are preparing to act without any limitations, like what happened after 1917." The Communist chairman

of the lower house of parliasaid there were no grounds to delay the poll and accused Mr Vladinir Lukin, a founding

nomic future at least lies in

mproved links with Madrid.

members to reconsider the

Mr Matutes also urged Nato

the Russian people to address | member of the Yabloko party, in a free and fair election." | whose leader. Grigory Yavlinsky, is also running for president, said Gen Korzhakov's remarks "smell of intrigue". The extreme nationalist. Vladimir Zhirinovsky. said: "The authorities understand that they are losing.

Mr Yeltsin's clique of advisers has every reason to fear a change in Kremlin management, not least because they know how easily in the past he has come to pragmatic deals with his political opponents. A recent meeting with Mr Yav-linsky has sparked rumours that Mr Yeltsin offered him the post of prime minister in return for his support. Mr Yeltsin is still trailing by

six points in the opinion poll having made up much lost ground through anti-Communism, overt election handouts to a wide variety of disgruntled voters, and efforts to make peace in Chechenia

But his populist promise, made in Yekaterinburg a month ago, to pay off the en-tire backlog of unpaid wages in March, has not worked. Only 20 per cent of the ar-rears have been paid, and Mr Yeltsin continues to face a hostile reception from pensioners on election walkabouts in provincial cities.



Shooting pool . . . Young members of the former Soviet Union's only underwater photography club in Kharkiv, Ukraine

Bossi puts the boot in Italian nation state

SAfrica constitu

Spain 'may shut | Spanish village | laments what **Rock frontier**

Adela Gooch in Madrid

PAIN'S new conserva-Stive government has threatened to sever all links with Gibraltar unless smuggling from the British colony is curtailed.

"If measures adopted by the outgoing government prove insufficient we will have to increase the pressure." Abel Matutes told Spanish newspapers just hours after being named foreign minister.

"I hope it will not prove necessary to shut down all communication once again. but we are willing to take any sider necessary. We are not ruling anything out," he said. Spanish commentators inreturn to the harsh stance adopted by General Franco. 1969 to 1982, isolating the Rock to all but air travel to Britain and ship travel. Franco mistakenly predicted that "Gibraltar would fall like

an overripe plum". The previous Socialist gov-ernment opened the border and began regular talks with Britain, but the issue flared up again recently over speedboats based in the colony and used to smuggle drugs and tobacco to Spain.

Madrid retaliated with extensive border searches. which cause long queues for Gibraltarians going to and

come at a particularly sensitive time — in the run-up to Mr Aznar had until now paid general election in Gibraltar lip service at least to the exnext week. The incumbent chief minister, Joe Bossano, favours greater independence but eschews any links with the Maastricht criteria to jus-Spain, while his main oppo-tify the austerity programme the bishop said to the actress

wisdom of maintaining an alliance base on the Rock, arousing an indignant reaction from Mr Bossano. "He is working on the mistaken analysis, made in the 1960s, that Britain's interest in Gibraltar iles in its military value, rather than in its sense of responsibility to the Gibraltarians. That responsibility

will not change and neither will our attitude." he said. The dispute over Gibraltar is a serious complication for the European Union and Nato. The alliance base there is the main obstacle to Spain's full integration into Nato's military structure --- a prime minister. José María Aznar, and the Nato secretary general, Javier Solana, a

former Socialist foreign minister. Mr Matutes also tackled the monetary union question head-on, calling for the timetable to be delayed so that Spain would have more chance of qualifying.

"It seems to me a reasonable idea to stop the monetary union clock so that a few more of us can jump on to the bandwagon," he said. "It seems likely that this will happen. I don't think France will want countries like Spain and Italy left out."

Although most analysts be-lieve it would be virtually imfrom Spain.

Mr Matutes's comments possible for Spain to meet its convergence targets on time. Mr Aznar had until now paid isting timetable.

The new economics minister. Rodrigo Rato. has used

THE PEOPLE of La Iglesuela del Cid, a hamlet in the remote Spanish region of Teruel, had been revelling in their 15 min-utes of fame. But they watched in despair yesterday as the American actress Faye Dunaway was forced by a bishop to leave.

A 35 million peseta (£175.000) contract had been negotiated for Ms Dunaway and her 70-strong crew to film in the square and at an 11th century shrine to the Virgin Mary and the warrior El Cid. The mayor, Jose Miguel Cruz, backed the project, hoping it would put La Iglesuela. an ailing agricultural community. on the tourist map.

But the local bishop, Antonio Alorga, reacted an-grily when his permission was asked to film the shrine, declaring: "The subject matter — the sexual relations of a young man with an older woman in the context of blackmail, adultery, and prostitution — must not be associated with the Virgin."

The director, Antonio Lombardo, described the film — In the Arms of an Older Woman — as a poignant encounter between wo people during the Spanish civil war and

read the script. National media focused on the row as villagers pleaded for a change of heart. But the bishop was

mented a villager.

adamant and Ms Dunaway and the crew moved on. "It was a unique opportonity and we've lost it," la-

A speech demanding self-determination for the north has alarmed the rest of the country. John Hooper in Rome reports IN TYPICALLY flamboyant | ment" approved a motion

yet subtly equivocal fashion. Umberto Bossi, the leader of the Northern League, bas put the future of Italy's rich north back at the top of the political agenda two weeks after a general election threatened to sideline his

Politicians of the left and right have expressed outrage about a speech by Mr Bossi at the weekend urging a peaceful, Czechoslovak style break-up of Italy. "The time has come to sit down around a table to divide up the country," he declared.

Mr Bossi was addressing

the self-styled Mantua parlia-League's representatives to the Rome legislature which has taken on many of the airs of a constituent assembly since its formation last year. On Saturday, the "parlia | rible". The Pope, on a pasto-

which is thought to have endorsed the "right to self-deter-mination of the people of Padania [Mr Bossi's name for the north]" and their "right of resistance" to laws or rules which stand in the way of their advancement.
The amended text is due to

version put out yesterday by the Italian news agency Adnkronos said it had been "only slightly modified before approval".
The resolution also approved the creation of an umbrells group, the Padania Lib-eration Committee, and opened the way for the elec-tion of a 10-strong "govern-

ment" by the next session of the parliament. Italy's probable new prime minister, Romano Prodi, said Mr Bossi's remarks were "ter-

Roman Catholies to work for the "common good of the entire national community

Mr Bossi backtracked a little yesterday, insisting his views were not yet League pol-icy. Commentators speculated that his real aim was a federal arrangement negotiated with the central government. The League, standing alone

under a mainly first-past-the-post system that favours edly well at last month's general election. It will provide be released today, but a draft almost one in 10 of Italy's new legislators, but will not hold the balance of power, as it did before the poll.

wise have had.

calls the Roman robbers, and to a slightly lesser extent they are voting against the south and against immigrants."

ceeded in satisfying those in the richest parts of the Polls suggest that most northern Italians regard the

in Italy has been going since 1992, but it still hasn't suc-

The separatist issue has given the League a higher profile than it would other-

"The people who vote for the League are not voting for a separate Padania. They are said Patrick McCarthy, professor of European studies at

Umberto Bossi: 'It is time to divide up the country

ral visit to the north, begged | the Johns Hopkins Centre in | idea of an independent state Bologna and author of a book called The Crisis of the Italian as unrealistic, though more than half view it as potentially advantageous. State. "The reform movement

> that Mr Bossi may be un-leashing forces he will be unable to control. Last weekend's parliament was the first to be guarded by a new body, the League's Green Shirts.

> For the moment, they are a 40-strong internal security force. But what they are intended to become is not clear. One League deputy said their uniform symbolised the "the fields and fresh grass of our plains". He foresaw them protecting the forests which are under so much threat".
>
> Another said they repre sented the nucleus of a National Guard of the North,

or GNN. 'The state has its carubinieri, the police, the revenue And we have the GNN, volunteers for the freedom of the north. We shall set out a big book, and anyone who wants to join up can — men, women

Albania's 'avowed virgins' wear the trousers

Steve Pagani in Bajza

EEP in the barren mountains of northern Albania, a group of women clings to a tradition as urged Bishop Alorga to old as the blood feuds that have returned to the region. Poverty, war and vendettas which wiped out the male line of a family meant women, and sometimes girls, would take control of the household. Many believed the custom had died out with the feudal

system that communist lead-

ers tried to eradicate.

which requires them never to marry or have children. When a girl adopts the mantle of "paterfamilias", she cuts her hair short, dresses as a boy and takes on a man's job.

The men and village elders accord the "virgins" all the rights and privileges of fellow males. They negotiate deals on the family's behalf and are consulted on village affairs. Lula Ivanaj is one such woman. At the age of 15, she But it was more often because to the more masculine form, accepted her widowed moth- of blood feuds," she said.

But the women live on er's request that she head the Known as "avowed virgins", family of 10 daughters and they obey an unwritten rule one son. The boy was considered too weak for the job. "I am never regarded as a woman but as a man," said Lula, aged 41, as she sat chain-smoking in her elder sister's one-room home in the rural town of Bajza, 90 miles north of Tirana.

"Usually if the men have been killed either through war or blood feuds, then a woman has the power to take over the defence of the family.

Lula's sister Marije and ther working life driving a wear long dark dresses, and wraps. Lula has cropped hair and wears a sweatshirt and

"I've never worn a dress or scarf. At weddings and on special occasions, I put on a suit shirt and tie," she said. After years in male com-pany. Lula sits and gesticulates like a man.

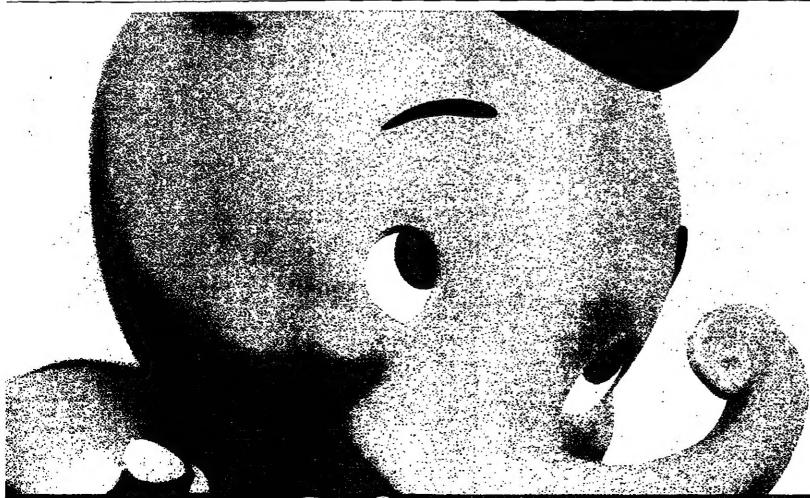
She was originally known as Lule but changed her name

Lula. She has spent most of ecuted as a man. - Reuter.

other female family members tractor, and is now an experienced welder

The tradition of "avowed virgins" is believed to have originated in a remote community called Kelmendi, the birthplace of the 17th century

'warrior virgin'' Nora According to legend, Nora stabbed to death a conquering Ottoman pasha who wanted to marry her. She fled into the hills and led resistance against the Turks. She was eventually her the "privilege" of being ex-



and the second of the contraction of the contractio

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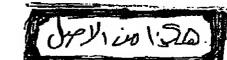
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THE MAGIC IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK



The Guardian Tuesday May 7 1996

Zaire's miracle man runs out of luck

OR Israel Ciswaka, his pastor's arrest torture and dispatch to a Zairean military prison for 12 months hard labour was confirmation

that there is a God after all.
"He warned us in a sermon that God had fold him the army was coming for him, and one hour later what he preached happened. We are loyous to see that the word of God came true," Mr Ciswaka

Others consider it less than omiracle that Fernando caught with a prostitute, fre-Kuthino, pastor of the Army of Victory church, was jailed ston screens. Pat Robertson, Kuthino, pastor of the Army of Victory church, was jailed by a military tribunal last month for allegedly stockpiling weapons. Rev Kuthino was hecoming an increase the coming an increase was hecoming an increase the coming and increase the coming ingly powerful and controver.

Rev Robertson has proven sizely voice in the competitive himself a loyal ally of President Mobutu Sèse Sèko in the competitive world of Zairean religion.

Rev Robertson has proven service he once led. Today he Rev Ruthino is one of his style. Fitted out in a wnine service he once led. Today he Zaire's best known preachers. Stetson, aviator sunglasses world of Zairean religion.

Evangelical churches have | US, in return for a free hand flourished since Zaire began its laboured transition to de-mocracy in 1990, Crowds are drawn to ministries popping up in garages and abandoned stores as much by the daily grind of poverty as by greater religious freedom. And some

religion is a good way to

make money.
The model is America. The United States evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, disgraced on home turf after being

to pursue business interests in Zaire, including diamond mining.

Most of the new churches are Protestant, encouraged by President Mobutu to counter Roman Catholic criticism of his reign. Moonies and Jehopastors are discovering that vah's Witnesses have found religion is a good way to growing audiences, while Baptists and Pentecostals have recently latched on to the pygmy population as a source of recruits.

Even one of President Mobutu's most prominent co-horts has taken to evangelism with a passion. Honore Ngbanda is popularly known as "The Terminator" because of those said to have died at the hands of the intelligence

Pastor Fernando Kuthino promised everything from a place in heaven to a cure for Aids, but he was no match for President Mobutu, writes Chris McGreal

in Kinshasa

Ngbanda, and regularly ap-pears on television to preach the virtues of strict adherence

each Sunday and launched his own radio station. A photograph on a wall of his Rev Kuthino is one of his style. Fitted out in a white Zaire's best known preachers. stetson, aviator sunglasses

his thumbs stuck in his belt, Rev Kuthino looks more like nastor. But to the envy of his competitors, he proved adept at fund-raising from foreign

Rev Kuthino's followers behis message — was his down-fall. After a stint with Rev Robertson's Assemblies of returned to Zaire six years ago and launched the Army of Victory. It promised every-thing from a place in heaven to a cure for Aids.

Its Miracle Centre is packed for services, with throbbing Zairean music carrying way beyond its walls. Nailed up behind Rev Kuthino's pulpit are the discarded crutches of those said to have benefited.

We give them hope," said Egide Bompere, one of the ministry's officials.

Old-style evangelists, such as Jacques Vernand, dismiss the likes of Rev Kuthino as

the likes of Rev Kuthino as akin to devil-worshippers.

"These people are dangerous because Zaireans swallow anything — any new teaching, any new doctrine or sect. These preachers are blending fetish worship with Christianity," he said.

But the Army Of Victory challenges the traditional

challenges the traditional religious view that the downtrodden should accept their lot in this life, in expectation of relief in the next.

"The difference is we talk about victory in this life," Mr

healed from Aids and any do not have to accept hard-kind of illness, or just to es-cape life outside these walls. have to suffer, that they can ship, that they do not just have to suffer, that they can fight back against those who make their lives miserable."

Rev Kuthino's supporters said he had been warned off sermons encouraging the poor to challenge exploitation and oppression. A hanner hangs across the Miracle Centre, reading: "We use all ways and means possible." But the ministry insists Rev Kuthino encouraged only non-violent

In February, just before his radio station was to go on air, soldiers burst into the Mir-acle Centre, claiming to have discovered a weapons cache and took Rev Kuthino away.

here. They didn't like his popularity and what he had to say."

cellar tip-off

AMURDER mystery which has beunted

South Africa for more than

ried out fresh excavations

themselves in a suicide pact

Mr Van Rooyen, like Fred

home. Police excavations at

equipment and hydraulic

A year after Mr Van

ject of an attack in a lift by

two satanists who slashed her with a scalpel. She is accused of making up the

story, which received wide publicity.

mer director of Central Intel-ligence ever to have been

sued by his own agency -

over an account in his mem-

oirs of secret operations to

recover a sunken Soviet sub-

marine — that had not been authorised for publication.

find any bodies

S Africa races to beat constitution clock

David Beresford in Johannesburg

OUTH AFRICA has 24 bours to avoid a div-isive referendum on its isive referendum on its an emergency meeting of his new constitution, after the party's federal executive earmain political parties failed lier in the day to announce main political parties failed last night to break a deadlock over the bitterly contested schools-language issue. But President Nelson Man-

persuading Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi to accept a month's postponement of local government elections in KwaZulu-Natal

The Inkatha leader had threatened to withdraw fron the government of national unity if the elections, scheduled for May 29, were stalled. But after a meeting of cabinet and party leaders lasting five and a half hours it was announced last night that una-mimous agreement had been reached on the delay. The elections are now expected at

the end of June.
Inkatha had claimed the African National Congress wanted to postpone the vote because it faced defeat. The Afrikaner privilege".

ANC in the province, which The National Party is dehas been issuing heated demanding constitutional guar-nunciations of Inkatha over antees that Afrikaner chil- Letters, page 3

a fair poli cannot be amid widespread political violence. On the constitutional front the National Party leader, F. W. de Klerk, emerged from

that efforts were being made to find a fresh compromise on the education clause - which But President Nelson Man-dela succeeded in defusing tional deadlock — as well as another threatened crisis by on property and employers'

> remaining differences can be breached," the deputy presi-dent said. The executive and party parliamentary caucus is expected to debate the issue further today.

The constitutional assembly, comprising the two houses of parliament, began debating the constitution yesterday afternoon. The final vote is expected to be taken at midday tomorrow.

The ANC raised temperatures over the language issue by accusing the Nationalists of seeking to return to "apart-heid education" and "white

the last few days, insists that | dren will have the right to be taught in Afrikaans. The ANC is insisting that the maintemedium schools should be an administrative decision subject to practicality.

There is some acepticism as to whether the Nationalists are prepared to pursue the issue to a referendum. The timetable in the present interim constitution obliges the constitutional assembly to approve the draft legislation by iock-out rights.

"Talks are still continuing in an effort to see whether country could be forced into a

The danger for the National Party is that the draft put to the vote at a referendum only has to be approved by a simple majority in the constitutional assembly — which the ANC commands. This would give the ANC the op-tion of dumping the version already thrashed out in multiparty talks and presenting to the electorate a hardline draft shorn of compromises on such issues as property rights. A 60 per cent majority is required for the adoption of the constitution at a referendum, which the ANC is likely



Squatters under siege . . . Police fire rubber bullets at a squatter in Alexandra township near Johannesburg yesterday. Squatters had refused to move to another site from an area earmarked for development photograph: NCKY DE BLOS

Biko family asks court not to grant amnesties

AMILIES of three killed the Cape Town Supreme tions for amnesty 10 days ago, anti-apartheid activists asked a court yesterday to stop South Africa's "truth commission" from granting amnesty to anyone involved member of the amnesty commission and forgiveness in the in human rights violations during white minority rule. The families of Steve Biko,

the black consciousness leader, Griffiths Mxenge, a lawyer, and Dr Fabian Ribeiro brought the action in

Available at:

mittee of Archbishop Des-mond Tutu's Truth and Reconcilistion Commission denied that blanket indemnities were given.

The amnesty committee started processing applica-

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to heal the wounds of apart-heid by confession, reconciliation and forgiveness in the form of amnesty but the three families say this lets perpetra-

tors off too lightly. The three were killed by se curity forces of the white regime that ended with free elections in 1994. — Reuter.

Peres digs in despite video

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

HE Israeli prime minis ter, Shimon Peres, dismissed renewed claims yesterday that Israeli gun-ners fired deliberately at a United Nations base in Leba non packed with refugees.

The new accusations are backed by an amateur UN video of an Israeli unmanned spy plane flying near the Qana camp in South Lebanon as it was being pounded by artillery on April 18.

Mr Peres yesterday stuck by the Israeli army's version of events: a spy plane was fly-ing in the vicinity but was not over the camp. "The army was very careful with its story and the army admitted when it made a mistake. We made a mistake. We are terribly sorry ... But we insist the information that was given is correct." he said.

More than 100 Lebanese ci-vilians died in the attack on Qana, and the much vaunted Israeli capacity for precision strikes was gravely under-mined by the hideous carnage at the UN camp, in which the presence of refugees was pub-lic knowledge.

The confirmation that a pi lotless "drone" was operating in the area of the camp at the time is further ammunition for critics, who say the firing was at best cynically callous and at worst deliberate. Israel says the shells which

hit Qana were fired in response to a Hizbullah rocket and morter attack. That the shells hit a UN post, said one clave of Qalqilya in the West senior officer in the after Bank, hospital officials said.

math of the massacre, was "a regrettable miss and not bad decision-making".

The army initially denied that it had had a drone in the area, and came out with contradictory comments as to whether they knew of the ci-

vilian presence at Qana.

A week after the attack, the deputy army chief, Major General Matan Vilnai, said the artillery had not known how many people were in the UN base. "At the time of the shelling we had no drone in the area because the weather conditions made it impossi-ble," he said.

On April 23, the army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Amnon Shahak, said: "We did not know that there were civilians there, but we knew that this was a UN position. Three days later, the head of military intelligence. Major General Moshe Ya'a-lon, said that the presence of

refugees was known — but not to the artillery commander. On Sunday, Maj Gen Vilnai said that inaccurate mili-tary maps had caused the "mistake" at Qana.

Palestinian and Israeli ne-

gotiators yesterday ended their first, largely symbolic, talks on a permanent peace settlement, at the Egyptian resort of Taba. The talks will resume after the Israeli general election on May 29.

Meanwhile Israeli soldiers shot and wounded nine Palestinians yesterday in clashes with demonstrators protesting against Israeli land confiscations at the self-ruled en

News in brief

Body of former CIA director Colby found

who had maintained all last week that, as a survivor of the

second world war and Viet-nam, her husband would still

Colby challenged the CIA's code of silence by revealing its secrets to congressional in-

THE body of the former CIA | decide cause of death. The | quiries. He was the only for-chief. William Colby, aged | body was identified by his | mer director of Central Intel-76, was washed ashore yester- | wife, Sally Shelton Colby, | ligence ever to have been day on a riverbank south of Washington, nine days after neighbours first reported him missing, writes Martin Walker in Washington.

Police said they saw no reason to suspect foul play, al-

though only an autopsy could

The leftwing Sandinista

National Liberation Front overwhelmingly picked the former president Daniel Or-tega, as its presidential candidate for Nicaragua's general elections on October 20. Mr Ortega received 471 votes from an electorate of 540 on Sunday. — AP.

Tax incentive

The French president, Jacques Chirac, admitted yester-day that many people were disappointed by the slow pace of reforms in his first year but raised the prospect of tax cuts in 1997 as an incentive for further spending cuts. — Reuter

US firm on Iraq

The US ambassador, Made-leine Albright, has defended her country's tough stance on oil-for-food talks between the United Nations and Iraq, saying: "We know Saddam Hussein is very clever in manipulating aspects of this policy and we want to make sure . . the food and medicine get to the people of Iraq." -- Reuter.

Truce ignored

Ortega chosen tal Monrovia yesterday, ignoring a ceasefire called by the Liberian militia leader Charles Taylor, who ordered

his loyalists to lay down their guns at noon. -- AP. Caffeine hit

be alive.

Americans needing to stay awake but unable to face coffee or Coke have found a com-promise — bottled mineral water laced with caffeine, writes Jonathan Freedland in Washington. Water Joe has become a hit among students, lorry-drivers, and hard-

Chrétien charged

sed busine

The Canadian prime minister, Jean Chrétien, who grabbed a protester by the jaw during a public event in February, was yesterday charged with assault, the Canadian Press agency reported. A judge ordered him to appear in court on June 6. — Reuter.

Turks cut back

The Turkish prime minister Mesut Yilmaz, yesterday an-nounced plans which could raise the retirement age and increase indirect taxation in an effort to reduce annual inflation from 80 per cent and a projected budget deficit of Young street fighters renewed nearly \$3 billion, Chr territorial battles in the capi tall in Ankara reports. nearly £8 billion, Chris Nut-

Food of love stamped out

As you and your loved one glide down the peaceful canals of Venice, your thoughts may turn to social security contribu-tions, writes John Hooper in

Unromantic maybe, but as of this week a fair number of tourists who would like to be serenaded in a gondola might find themselves pondering Italy's welfare bureaucracy.

Nobody, it seems, has been paying the equivalent of National Insurance for the entertainers who play for gondola passengers. The gondoliers, fearful that they might be liable, de-cided at the weekend to stop serenading till further

A spokeswoman for the entertainers said that without the stamps the 120 or so freelance serenaders would not qualify for pensions. It is not clear who is res-

ponsible for the payments, gondoliers or travel agents. But a spokesman for the gondoliers said until a solution is found, the serenades



6. 电影电影

The Guardian

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Spies and the ballot box

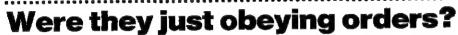
Yeltsin wants a polls boost not a new Cold War

postponed have dramatically revived the dark art of Kremlinology this weekend. In both areas it is not so much what is said but how it is said which requires extensive analysis. The case of the alleged British sples has been de-nied by the Foreign Office. They are absolutely right, of course. Everyone knows that British diplomats keep their eyes open, the American ones gather intelligence, and it is only the Russians who actually spy. In real life it would be amazing if no one in the British embassy in Moscow were working for Mi6 (the only question is how many). With the election in a month's time, inside political information gained by snooping of one kind or another will be more than usually prized. Nor should it be forgotten that both Russia and Britain have a vested interest in keeping a close watch on each other as competitive members of the nuclear club. The question remains why the publicity head of the successor to the KGB should have announced Moscow's "stern protest" at the use of the British embassy for "illegal spying activities". Could this by any chance be intended to pick up the patriotic vote for Boris Yeltsin?

Until Mr Yeltsin spoke out yesterday. repudiating the remarks of his security chief Alexander Korzhakov, there were some doubts as to whether voting would take place at all on June 16. Mr Korzhakov, who had said that bloodshed might follow unless the elections were postponed, is no loose cannon. His views have prevailed in the past on the president over such critical issues as oil export policy and the war in Chechenia. The notion of delaying the election has already been floated by lowerranking officials, and Russian millionaire bankers and industrialists have also called for "compromise" between Mr Yeltsin and his communist

SPY CLAIMS and speculation that the rival Gennady Zyuganov. Mr Korzha-Russian presidential election may be kov also followed up deliberately his first warning (given to The Observer) with a second statement in an interview with a Russian news agency on Sunday. Was Mr Yeltsin really unaware of his aide's intention? Yesterday the president said he had told Mr Korzhakov not to "get involved with politics". It is hardly surprising that some analysts will suspect there is more to the story especially since Mr Yeltsin says he shares the view that a victory for Mr Zyuganov "would start a civil war". It may suit his purpose to have Mr Korzhakov raise the political temperature and then present himself as insisting on the democratic process — so long as people vote the right way.

Mr Yeltsin is doing slightly better in the polls. Those published at the week-end showed him running neck-and-neck with Mr Zyuganov or slightly ahead. A month ago he was trailing by at least six points. However Russian commentators warn that voters have managed to disprove the polls already — particu-larly in the 1993 parliamentary election when the extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky did far better than expected. This time too voters may be reluctant to reveal their intention tovote for an outspoken opposition candidate. There are also suspicions that the system of counting the votes, which is dominated by the president's people, may prove shaky. Many Russians believe that there has been falsification before. However the figures work out this time in the first round, no one expects Mr Yeltsin to win outright. The second round — a run-off presumably with Mr Zyuganov — is seen as much more vulnerable. Yesterday's statement will not quell the speculation: meanwhile the Russian people await more important answers - about jobs, prices and the crisis of production - which Mr Yeltsin cannot deliver.



A new international court must be seen to be independent

in an international court on charges of crimes against humanity. Tadic, the systematic brutality against Muslim civilians, including murder, rape, and torture. He is among more than 50 individuals indicted by the international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Others include Bosnian Croats and Muslims, as well as Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and General Ratko Mladic, his military commander, who are indicted on 16 counts, including genocide.

Before the international community congratulates itself on this initiative, potentially of huge significance, we should consider the legacy of Nuremberg. Lord Shawcross, Britain's chief prosecutor, hailed the Nuremberg trial as a "milestone in the history of civilisation". It established the principle of individual responsibility for state crimes, that it was not enough to say "we were just obeying orders". Yet, as judge and chief prosecutor at the Hague tribunals for both Yugoslavia and Rwanda, has said: "The hope of "never again" became the reality of again and again". Atrocities indicted as crimes at Nuremberg have gone unpunished, in Algeria, Cambodia, Vietnam, east Timor, Iraq, and elsewhere. The permanent members of the Security Council have supplied arms to governments self-standing and independent.

TODAY Dusko Tadic takes his place in knowing they would be used, not only history. He is the first individual since in war but also against ethnic minor-Nuremberg fifty years ago to stand trial | ities. So why did the Security Council agree to act on the former Yugoslavia? The short answer is embarrassment "butcher of Prijedor", is charged with tinged, perhaps, with guilt. Here, in Europe, was ethnic cleansing, photographs of concentration camps reminiscent of the Holocaust, harrowing accounts of massacres, torture, and rape. Non-government organisations and public opinion demanded action.

The very title of the Nuremberg trial, of "German Major War Criminals", gave away its limitations. Goldstone describes his strategy as investigating "lower-level persons involved in carrying out the crimes to build cases against the leaders". Time will tell if the tribunal will succeed, whether diplomatic and economic pressure will lead to the handing over of Karadzic and Mladic. The tribunal has no police force and relies on international arrest warrants.

It is an ad hoc tribunal, set up by the Security Council. Defence lawyers are already arguing that it will hand down "victors' justice", ignoring the "dirty Richard Goldstone, the South African hands" of their prosecutors. In talks at the UN about the setting up of a permanent international criminal court, the US, Britain, and France, are laying themselves open to the charge that they intend to pick and choose which case the court should take up. The court, they insist, must be a creature of the Security Council. To be credible and effective, a permanent court must be

Small wordquake in headline

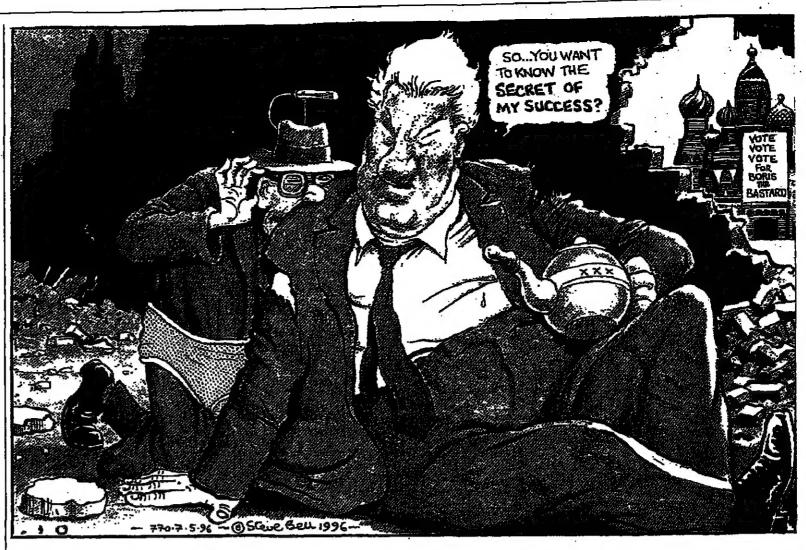
Earth-shattering tale of pre-war hacks may be apocryphal

SMALL EARTHQUAKE in Newcastle | Some are reported because of their may have transformed the profession. but the most famous headline remains in business, with slight variations among Times sub-editors competing long ago to write the most boring head-

line. It still is (the most boring). One benefit of new technology is the speed with which a quick electronic trawl establishes how many Small Earthquakes are reported. There have been 35 since 1990. Small shocks in areas prone to larger earthquakes -California and Japan — are clearly loose change of world wire services. have appeared in print.

under-Lyme, Staffordshire: no reports incongruity as when two small earthof damage. Every journalist will have felt a warm glow at reading this yesterday. New technology and casualisation blizzard was followed by an earthquake which knocked some dishes off the shelf. "This has been a hell of a year", said Abate's police chief. The Small where required. "Small earthquake in Earthquake in Jericho had to be Chile: not many dead" was the winner | reported, so we knew the walls had not fallen. There is a resonance to the story that the Earth Trembles in the Pyrenees. But why are there so many Small Earthquakes in Southern Bulgaria?

In July 1990, we find the memorable headline in its right location: "Small Quake in Central Chile". There were "no casualties or significant damage." Yet the real shock appeared not long ago in one of this newspaper's own worth reporting. So are those in South | columns: the famous pre-war Times African mines which sadly cause death | headline, which Claud Cockburn at regular intervals. The rest are the claimed to have invented, may never



Letters to the Editor

Of politics and punters

CHRIS POND of the Low Pay Unit (Left wins battle on spending, May 6) is correct to draw attention to the threat of benefit being disallowed to a claimant whose "behaviour or appearance" has reduced

their chances of landing a job. One of the more bizarre as-pects of this was explained to me by a local civil servant trade unionist. As a long-haired bearded, yet employed civil servant, he could be in the position of attempting to tell a long-haired, bearded, un-employed person that his appearance reduced his chance of finding a job.

27 Strathmore Avenue, Hull HU6 7HJ.

WAS in the visitor's gallery at the Socialist Labour Party conference described by Matthew Engel (It's my socialist party and I'll try if I want to, (May 6). He missed the point when he said the SLP could be as popular as the Labour Party if it were less socialist and more humorous. I am a trade unionist. It is possible I may have to go on strike. I am interested in a party that might support me if I do. The SLP might do that. That nice Steve Kaczynski. BBC Monitoring. Caversham Park

Reading RG4 8TZ UNPLUGGED (Media Guardian, May 6) suggests licentiousness in The Stage's advertising: "Required for Italy: Striptease/Consumma-tion". Consummation in this context refers to encouraging customers to buy drinks after the show. A strip joint's real profits being in the huge mark-up on drinks, part of a 'dancer's" job is to see to it that the punters consume.

Any showgirl knows the trick of attaching a plastic bag to the inside of her handbag, surreptiously filling same with drink after drink as the customer gets steadily soaked. Once the punter's been cleaned out, his hostess will disappear into the night like Cinderella, leaving only the bill as a memento of her

Fiona O'Connor. 11 Mobey Court. London SW4 6RS.

MICHAEL Newland writes (Letters, May 4): "Both bookshops are perfectly well aware of the nature of Search-light magazine." Yes they know Searchlight to be a respected monthly international anti-fascist and anti-racist magazine which, since the 1980s, has investigated ex-posed and helped bring to book violent racists and fas-cists. As for the nature of Mr Newland: until a few weeks ago he was the press officer of the notorious British National Party. Enough said. Gerry Gable. Editor, Searchlight magazine,

37B New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8JR. YOUR anniversary supplement (May 4) omits one milestone: the general newspaper strike of the late fifties. The only national on the newsstands were the then

Daily Worker and, because of being printed in Manchester, the then Manchester Guard-ian. Up to then I had followed my parents by reading the Daily Telegraph. During the strike, I turned to the Guardian and have never looked back.

155 Fawe Park Road, London SW15 2EG. CONGRATULATIONS on your 175th birthday.

Jane Brown.

Please keep a light shining in the darkness for many years Andrew Cornell. 45 Frensham Avenue,

Morley, Leeds LS27 0RP.

A child's view of justice Europhobes and fans

be more accurate as Janus, the two-faced. Here are a couple of examples:

Last week the Court of Ap-peal ordered that Sifiso Mah-langu should be returned to his mother (Zulu boy forced to leave 'white mum', May 6). It was not the child's wish, but perhaps the court wanted to be fair to the mother (al-though she had consented to his departure). The fact that he might have bonded with his carer after five years of his carer after five years of separation was apparently of no consequence. This is precisely opposite to the line taken by judges towards the parents of two children from Brighton some months ago (Jailed mother wins appeal over kidnen August 23, 1995)

over kidnap, August 23, 1995). The children had been placed voluntarily in the care of East Sussex Social Services Department because of their mother's illness. Its delay in returning them after her recovery "deserved criticism and caused great frustration to the couple" (the words of to the couple" (the words of two judges, in court). But a family court decided that because of the delay, the chil-

USTICE is portrayed as dren had bonded so closely a woman holding evenly with their foster-parents that it would be wrong to return

Unable to get their children back, the parents "snatched" them and were given prison sentences (that of the mother was quashed on appeal; the husband was released last month). And yet there has never been any criticism for the way the parents cared for their children; one judge declared there was "no reason to suppose that in relation to parenting skills or ability or material resources the father and mother are in any way unsuitable. Ken Norman.

The Croft. Carlisle CA5 5AG.

By SOME irony of timing, on the same day that the appeal judges rejected Michael Howard's dictatorial overruling of the judgment and sentencing in the Bulger case (Howard to fight Bulger case ruling, May 3), a BBC2 programme detailed the

crimes, left one puzzled as to the arbitrariness of the sen-tences. Some of the convicted were hanged; others, like Speer, imprisoned for

What price retribution? Fifty years on, what evidence is there that such punishments have made a jot of dif-ference to the way the "civi-lised" world has conducted its political affairs? Consider Korea, Vietnam, the Indian, African and Russian continents, the Middle East, and in the dead centre of Europe, mass slaughter of ethnic

In the Bulger case we have one horrific murder of a child committed by two 10-year-old boys. Why, we all ask? Is it not better for society as a whole that, during their confinement, we try to find the answer? For Howard to pur-sue his own sentence of vengeance is but to add a burden that will make recovery even more difficult. Returning them to society will be hard enough. Peter Porteous.

Sunnybank, Nutbourne, Chichester, W Sussex PO18 8RZ.

III thought out

family, May 1) is rightly con-

criminal law to incarcerate

are concerned, questioning the failure of many members

of the profession to intervene

in such cases.

The editorial in the same

against discharging people

with personality disorder (ie

who engage in persistent anti-

social behaviour) from

hospital. Psychiatrists are doctors

who specialise in the diagno-

sis and treatment of mental

illness, aiming to minimise

any danger resulting from the latter. The proposal that psy-chiatrists should control the behaviour of persons who are

not ill is a curiously illiberal

position for the Guardian. (Dr) Charles Sibisi. Busheyfields Hospital,

Russell Hall, Dudley. West Midlands DY1 2LZ.

and fans

Do Nicholas Budgen and his ilk ever consider the practical political conse-quences of their increasingly renophobic utterances (Pride

of place; May 3)? Many of those closely in-volved in the 1975 European referendum came away con-vinced that the Yes vote won mainly because of the fierce No campaign waged by the uglies of the National Front. Imagine what a new referendum campaign would involve? Messrs Portillo, Red-wood and even nice Mr Budgen supported and even body-guarded (even if not wanted) by the blackshirts. Do the Europhobes really want to let this ugly genie out of the bottle? Barry Wilson.

13 Hertford Street, Cambridge CB4 3AE.

WHAT is so striking in the European squabble is the degree of pessimism with which we perceive Britain's place in the world: Britannia at home, Cassandra abroad. The British government de-

rives its national, European and international power from being part of these broader communities and respecting its obligations and responsibilites therein.

To ensure the efficient working of the community, it is often necessary to compro-SABEL HILTON (Failures mise and follow the decisions of the majority, even if we should be in the minority. that led to the death of a cerned about the civil liber-ties' implications of using This is called democracy. Having experienced democracy, we know that "uncondi-tional surrender" is not a feapeople who have not committure of it. We are not ted an offence, even when viopowerless. But we run the risk of losing them should we nal propensities. She seems to harbour no such qualms. ignore our responsibilities however, where psychiatrists towards our companions.

This is neither surrender nor isolationism. It is social communitarianism, and we all do it. It's not so scary. Paul Douglas. 2 Bd Armand Duportal, issue berates the psychiatric

profession for not "getting its act together" and rails 31070 Toulouse. France. THE DSS office where I

work last week received a verbal message from the Sec-retary of State's office instructing that under no circumstances was the European flag to be flown from our office next Thursday, Europe Day. A further instruction was that the message was not to be written

This caused a certain amount of hilarity, not least because we do not possess a European flag in the first Name and address supplied.

WE'VE FOUND THE

Concrete plan watered down

So Severn Trent water au-thority wants people to use on the garden. concrete over their lawns to conserve water? Although not the most popular of ideas, the general principle of people becoming more responsible for water resources is worth exploring.
There are a few lessons we

could learn from water conservation in developing countries, where rainwater harvesting has been practised

A pragmatic long-term ap-proach here would be to incorporate "water conservation" into the plans for new buildings, including houses Rain water catchment tanks could be built either above ground or as an underground

istern.
At the very least, water Stockport SK7 3AL. cistern.

Ansen Ward. Chatham. Kent ME4 5RP.

ACCORDING to Severn Trent, consumers, who do their duty by paying their water bills, should be penalised, and go to the trouble and expense of buying and laying flags - whereas water companies, who are not doing their duty, since they do not replace their leaking pipes, can be rewarded with sizeable dividends to shareholders and exorbitant salaries to ex-

ecutives. Where is the logic of that? Simone Crawley.

Hong Kong: a trail of betrayals

trayal of Hong Kong, would say. Mr Maxwell would like your readers to believe that it was Governor Chris Patten, by launching his political reforms, who derailed the "through train" of the Legislative Council Nothing is fur-ther from the truth. What happened on June 4, 1989 in Beijing was the root of the

The tanks of the People's Liberation Army not only crushed the democracy move-ment in mainland China, but they also changed Hong Kong. Hong Kong people, having been kept in total darkness about their future by Beijing and London, wanted a greater say in their fate. Beijing, overwhelmed by the fear of people's power, turned ultraconservative and tightened

its grip on Hong Kong. It was Beijing's hardline at-titude that made the through train impossible. Beijing will never permit current legisla-tive councillors like Martin ones are more likely to appear.

NEVILLE MAXWELL'S letter (May 3) sounds exactly what Sir Percy Cradock, the main architect of Britain's beincluded among the passes the included among the passes of the p be included among the pas-sengers on the through train. I have no illusions about what John Major told us when he visited in March. If Britain has not done anything concrete to safeguard Hong Kong before 1997, it is pure

fantasy to expect it will lift a

finger after its "honourable

retreat" in 1997.

Patten's reforms are too little too late. If Britain had adopted such an assertive policy in the early 1980s, things would have been very different. Too bad Sir Percy was sacked too late. Hong Kong could have had a chance. History will judge Britain very harshly on this chapter of its decolonialisation.

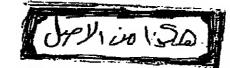
Kin-ming Liu. 12A Wo Mel Village, 2/F Sai Kung, N.T. Hong Kong.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number.

A Country Diary

pilgrimages seems, in our village, to have aroused a wide-spread fervour for fund-raising. There are projects to sustain two of its four public buildings, the church and the village hall. The others school and inn - have their own continuous and welltried ways of staying healthily in business. At the church's annual meeting. 19 people confidently addressed the fact that the tower was crumbling, and that the sums required to pay for repairs will, in relation to the tiny size of the congregation, be enormous. But never mind the sociological upheavals and acute shortage of clergy in the countryside, the April spirit affirmed that the tower will be saved. Meanwhile, the cricket and football clubs are thriving and badly need proper changing facilities. These can be provided by adding an extension to the village hall, which will also enhance provision for school drama. the dog-training class, the Women's Institute and the

SOMERSET: The April spirit | Badminton club, as well as that sent Chaucer's folk on attracting new users. So one group of people is preparing for a grand launch of the church tower appeal in September, while a quite separate group has already begun to raise money for the hall. Perhaps there was a touch of irony about starting in Wincanton's new out-of town supermarket. People rural places and institutions might be expected to line up with the protestors against such alien things as hypermarkets. But — as funnels of icy wind were sent rifling between the sets of automatic doors each time one of the Boy Scouts moved (they were competing with a coin trail outside, to fund repairs to their hut) - we shamelessly accepted the hospitality that sheltered us and the generosity that donated the prizes. We hope the sun will shine on the trinket stall and plant sale in May, the coffee morning in June, and especially on the tombola, ireasure-hunt and barbecue in July. JOHN VALLINS



ERGIE, the Dally Express reports, is talk-ing to American publishers about "potentially the most intimate royal book ever". Before distress sets in, I should point out that the story's has not been confirmed. Not yet. That comes next Sunday, when Taki-George states in the Sunday Times that such a thing could never happen. Widely regarded as the world's leading Fergie expert. T-G's recent statement that Johnny Bryan would never kiss and tell (more from him in the Sunday papers) was not his debut triumph: several years ago, he announced with certainty that under no cir-cumstances was the Duchess nestling with Steve Wyatt. There simply is no substitute, is there, for reliable inside knowledge?

ESS than a fortnight before it comes out in ments for launching Terry Major-Bali's book remain Stingfellow did offer his club, but I didn't want to ask if he meant it was free," says Terry. "He's such a nice man, and I'd hate him to think I was trying to get something out of him. Peter's way of life is a bit different from mine. I suppose," adds Terry, "but when you chat, you find out there's so much more depth to him than journalists let on." Terry recently met Mr Stringfellow's girlfriend. Helen Benoist, who is 16. "She was very funny," he says, "and a very nice young lady indeed."

 OW sad to note that the Without Walls show Psychoanalysing Diana has been withdrawn by Channel 4. Michael Grade pulled it after the Princess described her subjection to Preudian analysis by a complete stranger as "mental rape". Our sympathies, then, to Michael Jones, whose production company Pan Optic made the film. Mr Jones's previous contribution to Without Walls, incidentally, was a film in the "Bad Ideas Of The 20th Century" series that took the form of a complete hatchet job on Freud and his methods. 'I'm a little distressed you remembered that one, says Mr Jones, jovially. "Since then, I have come round to Freud."

■NCLOSING a photo taken in what looks like a hall-of-residence bedroom, Jane Bickerstaffe writes from Edinburgh offering herself as a potential Mrs Andrew Neil. A second letter and the photo will be forwarded to Andrew forthwith, and we wish them well. Discounting my mother, Miss — or Ms, as Andrew would style her — Bickerstaffe is now the only runner in the race. Previous applicant Angela Hunt has withdrawn after learning that courting
Andrew necessitates socialising with his chum Michael Winner.

DON'T LET HIM THROUGH.



Justice being seen to be done

Commentary Hugo Young

pintment of a Lerd hief Justice proped a much interest as the s much interest as the installation of the Lori Meyor of Lorion. The prestlood produckt its natural successor, and nobody outled the linus of Court gave a samm. Lord aylor's sudden stirement exposes acri new times lit's a personal fagedy. Here is the most hum and the travest of moden LCJs who, had fate allowed him more than four year in the job, would probably lave become a great one. It' it's a public calamity took comes at a moment when the choice of successor can not make it have a but lost their own legitimad a job once naturaly seen as

A job once naturaly seen as applitical has becore charged with sensitivities that have with sensitivities that have the highest political voltage. Yet the system fulling it gives all powerb a prime minister who is in the way out. In the staty annals of the law, there has selform been an appointment in such

true that Winston Churchill promised the job as a reward to one of his cabinet minis-ters, Walter Monckton, but the vacancy didn't occur in time. Most prime ministers have deferred to their legal advisers, the Lord Chancellor chief among them, and for the first three post-war decades the collaboration worked well enough. A typical conspiracy of silence permitted Lord Wid-gery (LCJ 1971-80) to continue in the post while mentally unfit to do so. But nobody thought to challenge the very English oddity whereby the entire upper bench is a patronage opportunity for the government of the day. Judge and minister co-existed in

Things began to change in the 30s. This re-alignment is one of the unacknowledged outcomes of the combative Thatcher years. The party of law and order found itself tangling with the agents of the law in a way that began to rouse fear among these luminaries for the order they were accustomed to administering. For a time, Lord Lane (LCJ

painless understanding of the lines that divide their proper

spheres of action.

danger of being mishandled, observations Whitelaw had in the old days, the Lord made about sentencing that Chancellor mostly did it. It's he decided to assert the independence of the judiciary by sending him to Coventry. This was still within the rules of the game. Like Wid-

gery's madness, it remained a professional secret. The defining shift in the temper of the times occurred in 1987, when Lord Mackay, on becoming Lord Chancellor, moved immediately to amend the rigid rules hitherto debarring judges from speaking on pretty well anything except from the bench. The rules were already fraying espe-cially on the radio, where judges began to take part in sedate discussion of their work without bringing down the Temple. Mackay was opening a door he couldn't keep shut. But it was taken off its hinges in 1989, the year when silence finally began to be supplanted by the full-blooded controversy between judges and politicians which is now in danger of becoming commonplace.

Again, Mackay was the agent. In that year, his propos-als to reform the legal profes-sion and end the barristers' monopoly attracted more interneciue criticism, even haaccustomed to administering.
For a time, Lord Lane (LCJ tred, than the judicial broth-1980-92) refused to talk to the Home Secretary, William Whitelaw. Their meetings were the usual channel through which judiciary and executive communicated, but Lane was so increased by some termscume criticism, even hattered, than the judicial broth-1980-92) refused to talk to the trhood has ever unleashed upon its leader. Lord Scarman called this Scottish interloper's ideas superficial, Lord the very day the feeding time is a freeze tree was so increased by some still LCJ at the time, likened served if sentencing is left to

them to "a toothbrush mous-tache and a swastika arm-band" standing on the

Even then, the judiciary's evolution from priestly silence to breast-beating conthreat to old norms. This dispute was confined, after all, to the profession of the law itself. It hurt Mackay but did sen. It murt markey out the not ignite his more political colleagues. For that explosion, we had to await the arrival of Lord Taylor in the Strand, shortly followed by Michael Howard at the Home Office. It is the turf-battle between these upholders of two estates of the realm that has created what amounts to a constitu-tional dispute, and makes the election of Taylor's successo

so peculiarly sensitive.

The more Mr Howard has insisted on politicising the criminal law, the more

Judges are independent, and do not behave like a herd. But the LCJ is the leader, and sets the tone

fiercely has Lord Taylor challenged the evidence on which he does so, and the judicial prerogatives he seeks to over-ride. Taylor is moved less by liberalism than by respect for the proprieties. He supported ending the right to silence, and has never challenged the law-making supremacy of Parliament. But he contests most of the diet with which

is an argument between judges and politicians that is as combustible as it is

There are others, all of them bearing on the post that has to be filled. The expansion of judicial review, whereby judges have gathered the power to assess and some-times overturn ministers' administrative decisions, is a huge growth of the Thatcher era. The Government has won most cases, but lost some fam-ous ones that made ministers, not least Mr Howard, look like lawless bastards. The two es-

tates glare at each other across barricades that have ceased to be a matter of cosy establishment mutuality. Not far down the road is the prospect of the European Conven-tion on Human Rights, incor-porated into British law, enlarging still further the po-

enlarging still further the po-litical terrain into which judges will have the power, in-deed the duty, to move.

How this ground will be walked by the judiciary will depend quite critically on the character of the next Lord Chief Justice. Judges are in-dependent persons, and do not hehave like a herd. One can't always ascribe collective always ascribe collective views to them. But the LCJ is the leader, and sets the tone. He will have the choice either of reinforcing the judicial function as it has evolved, or of ordaining a retreat. Which bias he offers is a matter of intense interest to politicians, who are now presented with an unexpected opportunity to deflect the course of justice. It is not right that the chance should fall to a single, uninvigilated party leader, whose time is all but over.

Thursday: Who It should be,

individual judges deciding individual cases, not seized by ministers whose driving motive is appeasement of the Sun and the Daily Mail. There is no doubt that most of his profession agree with him. This is a requirement between to Damascus



Catherine Bennett

Good morning John, good morning Sue. good morning every-one! The recent, tragic news that Thought For The Day is to have a "less churchy feel" may have led some listeners to question their faith. How, they will ask, can a just and merciful God permit such a dreadful thing to happen? But it is not His fault. God has given us the gift of free will And free will brings with it responsibilities; we cannot escape the consequences of our wise and worthy churchmen from Thought For The Day is a reflection on us all. It is a sign of what happens when we turn away from the moral laws God has laid down. As we read in Deuteronomy, such disobedience does not go impunished: "In the morning, thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even, thou shalt say, Would God it were morning!" And at breakfast, thou shalt say, Where is the

Venerable George Austin! The secularisation of the Thought for The Day may be just the beginning of our sor-rows. If the producer of the Today programme is smitten in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of his foot unto the top of his head, then we should be sympathetic of course — but we can hardly feel surprised.

The reformation of Thought For The Day has already that are upon the face of the brought down the wrath of some of our premier laymen — and clerics, indignant that their favourite pulpit should be shared with a gang of worldly usurpers who offer nothing but a "moral or spiri-tual perspective on events, issues and personalities..."
That devout columnist Paul
Johnson has demanded that
the thought be "genuinely
sacred", which to him, translates as "simple, traditional
Christianity", Johnson, faile. Christianity". Johnson fails to explain why religious enose of moral improvement surely devise his own religious exercises: if radio transmission is essential to his devotions, perhaps he could tune into one of the many other religious broadcasts, from Prayer For The Day, to the Daily Service, which are still imposed on the public by the BBC in its sacred mission to persecute non-believers. Alternatively, Mr Johnson

could seek out a church, one of those large buildings, often

identifiable by a spire, constructed solely for the purpose of religious worship. It is here, after all, that preaching has most meaning. A sermon makes most sense to followers of the faith being promulgated, which is why the half-baked homilies on Thought For The Day are at once so For The Day are at once so inadequate for believers such as Mr Johnson, and so pointas Mr Johnson, and so point-less for everyone else. The audience of the Today pro-gramme, into which the Thought intrudes, is not a congregation, united by reli-gious conviction, but a sec-tion of the public, character-ised by nothing but a desire to keep up with the news.

keep up with the news.

To preach to such an audience is not only meaningless, but insufferably patronising. Every morning we are treated as savages by the BBC's bossy band of missionaries, without even the recompense of a handful of shiny beads. As they struggle to square human misery with divine goodness, few Thinkers resist the opportunity to reprimand their captive audience for failing to abide by the pre-cepts of the religion of the day. Nadeem Kazmi, a Mos-lem contributor, chooses the words of the grandson of Mohammed to warn us against "the evil within ourselves". Elaine Starkey, an Anglican, reprimands us for neglecting "our own sense of fallibility and sin". Ahkandadi Das chastises us for eschewing Hindu asceticism. Colin Mor-ris, a Methodist, recently alerted listeners to the sin of excessive nationalism, arguing that God "offers hope only for humanity, not for some section or elite or favoured part of it". Can this be the same Almighty who once ad-vised his favourites, "the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people

EFENDERS of the Thought should be aware that far, from providing spiritual uplift, these fragments of sanitised RI reliably excite powerful sensations of derision and disgust. There are those, for example, who on hearing the whimsical chirrupings of Rabbi Lionel Blue, or the trea-cly admonitions of Lavinia Byrne, are possessed by an impious desire to smack their lightenment needs to be supplied by a radio station. If a Thinkers ever engaged in man of his calibre requires a thought, they might consider I that ministering to their before breakfast, he can flocks is a more fruitful occupation than adding to the daily irritations of millions.

By operating the venerable system of Buggins' Turn, all of these beliefs are effectively nullified, shown to be negli gible. Thought For The Day is the very definition of a sop, or to put it another way, our most worthy pioneer of cultural relativism. Any further step down this path can only be welcomed by all who find the faithful ludicrous.



When the music stops

Chrs Smith believes that by getting people off benefit and into vork, Labour can fight poverty and exclusion but still cut ocial-security spending

new Labour govern-ment will be judged above all on its sucstandeds in education for the majory and reforming the welfar tate. This morning at Chrch House I shall be setting out, in a lecture for the istitute for Public Policy. Reserch a number of the priniple that will shape Labour's ipproach to the wel-Labour's ipproach to the wel-farestatels we move towards a new cenury. Sadly, much of thedebat has been hijacked by, wild speculation about Labour's ipproach to post-16 efficationland child benefit. Let me atthe outset put the

Let me arme outset put the becord stright.

At present there is a whole range of ifferent sources of funding ar education and maintenance after the age of 16, include grants, support for fees, to allowances, edu-cational-mintenance awards and childbenefit. There is little ratinality and little equity abut the present system, and Gordon Brown, David Blikett and I are undertakit a serious review of this rare of provision, to see if somehing better can be principles that Beveridge

ONY BLAIR has | Surely it must be right for us made clear that a to take a serious look at the new Labour governcational opportunity for those who at the moment don't stay on at 16? The Government seems to think that even discussing an issue of this kind is a helnous crime. For all their tough talk, they appear to believe that seriousminded thought about difficult political issues is to be condemned in the most sim-plistic of terms. Coming from party that froze child bene fit for three years and failed to uprate it properly for five, this is a bit rich.

In my lecture today, however, I want to set out some thing much more fundamen-tal; how a Lahour government will approach the need for welfare reform in a modern world. We have to recognise that the world into which the Beveridge report was born over 50 years ago has changed dramatically. Any sensible welfare system has to take account of this, and ensure that the framework of secu-

put togethe.

Nobody hould doubt that, arising fro this review, we will bringborward proposals to improvenot diminish, the incentives or pupils to stay on at school or opt for further education to assume that we have a responsibility as a community to support that saves sion would regate the entire review press. We haven't.

There are some who argue that the best test of how progressive a welfare policy is, is the amount of money that is spent on it. I disagree. High social-security system as along the work of providing genuine help that the best test of how progressive a welfare policy is, is spent on it. I disagree. High social-security spending is a sign of failure not a sign of success. It isn't cutting people's benefits that saves inoney for the national economy on welfare. It is helping social-security spokesman social-security spokesman. principles that Beveridge folded together to create the welfare state that the postwar

those times when we can't. The postwar welfare state was essentially a marriage of community responsibility with individual responsi-bility, and it must remain so

today. Building on those principles, our welfare state will have a number of key objectives: it must tackle poverty, insecurity and exclusion; it must provide incentives to work, not disincentives; it must protect the insurance principle and roll back the tide of means-testing, it must support individual effort and protect families; it must pro-vide genuine help to the individual citizen, not just a handout of money; it must remove fraud and inefficiency from the system as far as possible.

Much of what the present Government has done has undermined this combination of principles. It has, for example, extended massively the quantity of means-testing in the system — up from 17 per cent in 1979 to 35 per cent now. And although any social-security system has to have some means-testing as part of it, a doubling of this kind cannot be sensible. Means tests not only and up with a large number of those who qualify for a particular entitlement failing to get it, but they also reduce incen-tives to save and work. The individual responsibility is diminished by the way in

which the community respon-sibility is delivered. The present Government has presided over several

viduals to make provision in | Tory Britain; and not only | people to come off benefit al-our own lives, when we are | that, the gap has been grow-earning and able to do so, for | ing faster in Britain than in | is why we shall be putting a any other developed country except New Zealand. Far from curbing the social-security budget, the Government has seen it rise and rise. The number of people dependent on benefit has doubled in 17 years, from one in 12 to one in

> It has also managed to increase levels of poverty in our country — and yet, astonish-ingly, they then turn round and try to pretend that it doesn't exist. It's a Third World problem, ministers tell us, not something we need to worry about here. Well, it clearly is, and a

short walk away from Westminster would have shown ministers exactly what the reality is that faces many pen-sioners, people who are facing long-term unemployment. and parents struggling to bring up children in modern Britain. And it is not only the lack of decent income that matters; it is the exclusion from everything else that forms part of civil society—a warm home, an unpolluted environment, a street or estate free of crime, the chance of a decent education. Poverty must be measured not only in pounds and pence but

HE real answer to poverty and exclusion, however, is not to throw money at the problem through the benefit system. There are some who argue that the best test of how pro-

benefit-to-work strategy at the heart of our detailed proposals on social security when we publish them in a few weeks' time. And those proposals will seek both to provide greater dignity for the individuals concerned and also to reduce the bill to

This is one of the reasons why we have been so at-tracted by the examples of benefit-to-work success in places like California and Australia. In the Australian Jet Scheme, for instance, par-ticular help is focused on single parents, assisting them through a single adviser, linking together several different government departments, and helping to steer them through their needs from childcare to training and education to job applications. It has been an outstanding success, has all ready become entirely self-financing, and is a model we are looking at very keenly

We need an entirely new philosophy of welfare and social security in this country. Instead of consigning a large section of our society into a near-permanent condition of umemployabi-lity, we should be exerting every effort to help them through unemployment and into work. Too often we tend te regard the job of the De-partment of Social Security as one of — rather grudgingly — handing out giros to Dickensian supplicants. We need to transform that role into one of providing genuine help to citizens in seeking to regain a foothold in society. That way we will begin to secure genu-ine social justice for the people who need it most.

New Internationalist magazine John doesn't get it

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In the name of freedom

came director of the Central Intellience Agency, William Colby, who has died aged 76, was the living embodiment of the dark suspicion of American conservatives that the CIA was the crats and peaceniks. But he also embodied the worst fears of the left, that such service in espionage would inevitably pollute even the most firmlyheld democratic convictions. He was an emblematic fig-

ure of the moral ambiguities of America's cold war. The implacable and utterly ruthless way Colby fought against totalitarian communism, and against those he saw as Red Nazis, contrasted sharply with his belief that the West was and must remain in the moral right. He never worried about ends and means. Against a totalitarian foe, the threat to democracy justified

almost anything.
For conservative colleagues he was something very close to a traitor, the CIA head who revealed its innermost secrets of assassinations and domestic crimes to a vengeful Congress in its inquisitorial year of 1975. For liberals, he was something close to a butcher, as the CIA's mastermind in South Vietnam of the notorious Phoenix programme: a counter-guerrilla operation waged in the villages and jungles, which in the jargon of the time "accounted for" tens of thousands of Vietcong agents, officials and

Colby was, by American standards, a political progres-sive all his life. He helped organise petrol pump workers into a trade union before the second world war, and after it canvessed enthusiastically for Harry Truman's re-elec-tion. When retired he became a leading advocate of the nuclear freeze. Most recently he was campaigning to slash the US defence budget by half to invest the money in schools hospitals and job training.
"I am William Colby and I

was head of the CIA", he announced over national TV in a series of advertisements during the 1992 campaign season. "The job of intelligence is to warn us of dangers to our national security. During the cold war, those dangers thought were signal lamps, were military. The cold war is over, and the military threat was being burned by German is now far less. It's time to cut | troops and spent the next day our military budget by 50 per cent and to invest that money in our schools, our health

care and our economy."

The ads were paid for by the Coalition for Democratic Values, a liberal organisation which Colby joined with Paul time to advising the post-Soviet governments of eastern Europe and the new Boris Yeltsin administration on ways to replace the KGB structures with a democratised intelligence service.

"Intelligence is too damn important and too damn dangerous to be left to the spies, or left to the government," Colby told his colleagues on the Committee of Western Sovietologists that was drafting a memorandum for Yeltsin on the need to break up the KGB. Colby rose to be head of the CIA, appointed to the post by President Richard Nixon at the height of the Watergate dramas, because of the legend of daring and ruthless dedication that had followed him since his adventures in Nazioccupied Europe in 1944.

Code-named Berkshire, Colby was one of three Brit-



Intelligence is too damn important to be left to the spies'

- William Colby

into the Departement of the Yonne on August 14, 1944, to rally the Maquis guerrillas under Operation Jedburgh, and to destroy the rail links connecting Paris to Lyon. Dropping on to what they and night hiding in a ditch as the Germans searched for them. But Berkshire went on

to complete his mission.
A slim and self-effecing man, Colby once described himself as "the traditional which Colby joined with Paul grey man, so inconspicuous Warnke, the veteran Demothat he can never catch the waiter's eye in a restaurant". At the same time, Colby He was born into the comfort-

MAN of the moder | was devoting considerable | able Wasp upper-middle class, ate left who be time to advising the post | went to Burlington school in Vermont, then to Princeton, and took his law degree at Columbia.

After the war he went briefly into the private law practice he had always intended, before being recruited back into intelligence. Although he had served in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) — the forerunner of the CIA — during the war and become a protege of its legendary chief, "Wild Bill" Donovan, Colby did not join the new CIA immediately. Instead he went into the Office of Policy Coordination, whose of the State Department had been recommended by George Kennan, desperate to find some way to prevent Italy from voting communist.

Colby served under diplomatic cover in Rome and in Sweden, running agents in-side the Soviet Union through the Baltics, and also running agents into the Italian Communist Party. It was in Italy that he began his great feud with James Jesus Angleton an extraordinary personal clash which shook even as

vast an institution as the CIA.

Angleton, inherently suspicious of Soviet cunning after being duped by the British double agent Kim Philby, believed that nothing in cold war strategy should ever be taken at face value. As head of counter-espionage and chief mole-hunter at the CIA, he had the power to give his paranoid fantasies full rein. The Sino-Soviet split was a ploy to lull the West, so was Czechoslovakia's Prague Spring in 1968, and so was the Italian Socialist Party, which Angleton insisted was a stalking horse for the communists. Colby, from his Italian van-

ical strategy in the cold war, he insisted, was to define the difference between the moderate left and the communists. Indeed, he maintained that the cold war could only be won in alliance with social democrats, and was content to be known as one of them. Colby despised communists and took his passion to South Vietnam as CIA station chief from 1959-62, where he argued hard against the Kennedy administration's growing dissatisfaction with the anti-communist and Catholic a discussion of the evils of the regime of Ngo Dinh Diem.

whole point of the CIA's polit-

Colby was overruled. "I can't remember a serious village youths to augment the conversation about who would take over from Diem. Jungle, supplemented by the would take over from Diem.
There were only vague references to the generals", he recalled, still baffled to explain why "our government could have been so blind as to have contributed directly to have contributed directly to have contributed directly to have contributed directly to have contributed overthrow and been so blind as to have account for the new President Nixon's attempt to pointed Executive Director Comptroller, the CIA's third-ranking job. His supporter within the agency was Richard His reports caught the attention of the new President Nixon's attempt to politicise the CIA.

They cited files on 7,200 the contributed over the contributed of the contributed over the contributed by the collection of taxes and contributed in the contributed over the contributed by the collection of taxes and contributed in the contributed over the contributed by the collection of taxes and contributed in the contributed of the campaign." Colly within the agency was Richard the massive mall tampering and intelligence gathering operations run insaide the US, in defiance of the CIA charter which out tention of the new President Nixon's attempt to politicise the CIA.

They cited files on 7,200 the contributed of the CIA is the massive mall. Intrigue and exposures, of the campaign. They listed the massive mall. Intrigue and intelligence gathering operations run insaide the US, in defiance of the CIA charter which out the contributed of the CIA charter whic

head of the CIA for the Far East and was about to be given the plum job of running the CIA's Soviet desk when the Vietnam Embassy persuaded President Johnson to send him back to Saigon. Colby was "seconded" to the Agency for International Development until 1971, ostensibly to run rural develop-

In fact, he was taking the dirtiest of wars to the enemy, fighting fire with fire to counter the Vietcong strategy of assassinating and intimidating village chiefs and rural officials across the country. It was a job he had brought upon himself, after the reports he had sent back in 1961-62.

"We began to receive reports of increased inciients: the selective assassination of a village chief; a midnight attack on an isolated security post in which the guards were killed and the weapons confiscated; the eve-American-Diemist regime: the conscription of a group of

war" quoted almost verbatim | immediately after the 1972 | rent au former members of the ethics of espionage and from Colby's cables. Colby all election. Colby later wrote Congres | covert operations that conways believed that had Ken that this "had to do with After chlesinger was profrom Colby's cables. Colby al-ways believed that had Kennedy survived he would not have widened the conflict, and would not have made Lyndon Johnson's mistake of sending a vast and cumber-some US Army to fight a guer-

rilla war.
"The US reaction was that this was a soldier's war. It was not. It was a guerrilla's war. I should know," he argued. "I was one." In his book, Lost Victory,

Colby subsequently argued that his merciless campaign against the Vietcong had ended in victory by 1971, and that it was only after the Victcong's defeat that North Vietnam deployed its regular forces into a straightforward military invasion to win the war. There was some truth in this. But most historians judge that Hanoi's decision to pudge that rands's decision to sacrifice the Vietcong cadres by hurling them against American firepower in the 1968 Tet offensive was probably more important in de-stroying the Vietcong in the

Colby was thought to have brought home in 1971 and ap-Helms was sacked by Nixon

Helms's careful distancing of the agency from Watergate, his refusal to allow it to be used in the cover-up. Watergate helped create a climate of mistrust and expo-

Word of honour . . . Colby is sworn in at the Oval Office as head of the CIA in September 1973. Among te witnesses are President Nixon and Henry Kissinger

sure which began in turn to sap the CIA. Once under investigation for possible abuse of its functions, the new director, James Schlesinger, or-dered the CIA bureaucracy in May, 1973 — more than a year before Nixon resigned — to prepare a full list of possibly

Vietnam was a guerrilla's war. I should know,' Colby argued, 'I was one'

"the family jewels", these became 693 pages of single-spaced typewriting.

They detailed assau done well enough to be plots against Patrice Lumumba in the Congo and US citizens, including 14 cur-

moted toccretary of defence, Colby wi appointed director of the 'A, and began to reveal sue of the "family jewels" toongressional com-mittee chamen. There were leaks, an the New York Times been publishing the accounts. It newly-installed

President and incautiously confirmed rich of the tale in an off the rord hunch with New York Tues editors, and Colby was ten called before Congress i give public

The suppoters of Helms claim Colbythrew his old chief to the wwes. Colby said he simply obed the law.
"Every timBill Colby gets
near Capitol lill, the damn

hear Capitol hil, the damn fool feels an resistible urge to comiess to ome horrible crime, grubled Henry Kissinger. In fact, Coly was saving Kissinger from hideous embarrassment, hally sacking Angleton jut as the old counter-espionse chief had begun an inquir into the pos-

sibility that Ksinger was a Soviet mole Washington in the 1970s

Colby will be remembered as one who chose openness, under the conviction that the elected politicians know best. He will equally be remen-bered by his peers in intellgence as the man who unveiled the secrets, and as the creat betrayer.

And in the rural hamiets of the Mekong delta, there are still widows and orphans of the wretched war that Colby fought in the name of anti-communism. His claim of victory in South Vietnam Is as clouded as his claim of success in saving Italian democracy from the communists, only to see so much of it fall under the poisonous sway of

the Mafia. And while the CIA was roasting on the spit of domestic controversy, it was failing in .its fundamental duty. It failed to predict the Egyptian attack in what became the Yom Kippur war, failed to foresee the Indian nuclear Chile, the elected socialist leader whose ideology was, by cruel irony, more sympa-thetic to Colby than the poli-

Beryl Burton

Timing her rides to perfection

ERYL Burton, who was found dead beside her bike on a Yorkshire roadside on Sunday, was more than suit titles, and took two world road championships, both in the only style she knew using her strength against the watch to win alone, with the just a great cycling champion: for more than a quarter of a century "BB", as she was popularly known, was an institu-tion, the dominant figure in and will never be repeated. British women's bike racing. Beryl was not just one of the greatest cyclists, but in my opinion she was one of the greatest athletes of all time." said Peter McGrath, chair-man of the Road Time Trials

That this coming Saturday, a day before her 59th birth-day, she was to have taken part in the women's national 10 mile time trial championship which after several years of ill health she stood no chance of winning, under-lines the fact that her love of competition — beginning in the days of truly amateur sport, went beyond even her hundreds of world and national championship

Burton was in the finest tradition of a line of British cycling greats, currently represented by Chris Boardman: she was a specialist in the solitary skill of racing against the watch on road and track who gained national and in-ternational stardom largely by working outside the sys-tem with little or no help from the sport's governing bodies.
Typical of this was the fact that when she took her first

women's distance set by Burton.
Burton recalled in her autoworld title in the track pur-

rest of the field chasing her.

The Yorkshire lass's domi-nation of British women's For 25 consecutive years Bur-ton was crowned British Best All Rounder, a title awarded for the fastest woman over the set distances of 25, 50 and 100 miles. She won the national 25-miles title 26 times, the 50-mile title 24 times, the 100-mile title 18 times, landing her final gold medals in 1986 at the age of 49. Her national records at 25, 50 and 100 miles — some set in 1976 at the age of 39 — still stand, while it took 20 years for her 10-mile record to

More impressive, however, were her performances against the men of the time, who were regularly beaten by the dimple-cheeked curly-haired "slip of a lass". The legend was born when she topped the men's record for the 12-hour event, covering

277.25 miles in the set time. On her way, she caught and passed Mike McNamara, who although beaten on the day by British men's record for the distance - a record which was actually lower than the women's distance set by

biography Personal Best that after 223 miles she caught and



Personal best . . . 'BB' was a great cyclist and a great athlete

rice Allsorts in the pocket of

Ta love."

was required on my part. I mile record in a time of three substantial margin".
was carrying a bag of Liquo hours and 55 minutes. Burton's solitarily was also the fourth fastest my jersey. I pulled one out. cyclist of either sex in Britain Liquorice Allsort, Mac? I over the distance and again shouted. He gave a wan smile. | beat the best man comfortably. A cycling writer at the game of bouncing a ball her own way to the start. She passed McNamara, who had won a further five world pur-started two minutes before against the men a year later ment to a woman breaking excursion into swimming.

PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN McCASE

Burton's solitarily competitive streak can be traced to her schooldays, when she set herself increasingly tough standards for the playground

Champion career

Burton's glittering prizes: World road champion:

World pursuit champion: 1959, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1966 British road champion: 1959, 1960, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974,

British pursuit champion: 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974. British 10 mile champion: 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981.

British 25 mile champion: 1958-1982 (except 1965), 1984, British 50 mile champion:

1958-1980 (except 1962), 1983, British 100 mile champion: 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1975. 1978, 1980, 1981,

British Best All Rounder: 1959-1983

her. "I thought some gesture | when she set a women's 100- | the four-minute mile by "a | her ability on two wheels became obvious when she met her future husband, Charlie Burton, an amateur cyclist from her home town of

> Charlie was to provide support for the next 40 years as Burton juggled the family commitments which followed | 12. 1937; diedlay 5, 1996

the birth of heraughter Den-ise in 1955 withull-time jobs and punishing training

schedules.

She was a tily amateur cyclist some epiloyers, such as the GPO, we less than helpful when it me to fitting in world champnship trips, while in the id-1960s she was putting if punishing shifts in a mark garden run by a local rival ae remained loyal to the ameur Morley Cycling Club forhe whole of her career.

cycling Glub forme whole of her career.

Apart from ccasional sporting failures— notably several frustratebids at the world one-hour ford and a disastrous attent on the men and womes 24-hour title and record when her lenges save out aftr she had knees gave out aftr she had taken a commaning lead, there were to be wo other major sources of ustration in Burton's life.

One was that, in lite of her One was that, in site of her MBE in 1964 and OE in 1968, the British press neer recognised her feas. he complained that her Eitish 12-hour record for bith sexes made-the bottom of page seven of the Yorksire Evening Post. 'If she had achieved comprablefents in a more popula sportsuch as a more popula sportsuch as tennis, often bating the top male competition of the day, she would hav been abouse-hold name aroud the vorid," commented a listing

her daughter the built a good international career in her mother's shaow, but could not avoid beoming her rival in the early 170s. The bitternss between the

two women was such that after they has both sprinted neck and nek for the gold medal in the 775 British road race title, Brton would not shake her dayhter's hand. In spite of a teaul reconcilation after meetinthead to head in the British ack championships later hat year, relations could over be the same

William Foteringham

Beryl Burtoncyclist, born May

test explosion, or the coups in Portugal and in Cyprus. The coup the CIA did know about tics of his own president.

Martin Walker

William Egan Colby, born January 4, 1920; died April 27, 1996

Cardinal Suenens ■ ARDINAL Leon-Joseph

turotunn

action in

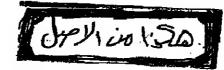
Suenens, who died yes-terday at the age of 91, was a leading figure in at-tempts to modernise the Roman Catholic Church in the 1960s. He urged greater contacts with other Christian denominations and an increased role for women. He was ap-pointed Archbishop of the diocese of Brussels-Mechelen in 1961 and Primate of Belgium in his self-imposed retirement in 1980. There will be an obituary

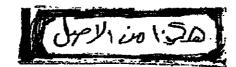
Birthdays

Scoble Breasley, jockey, 81; Teresa Brewer, actress and singer, 65; Lord Briggs, historian, 75; Peter Carey, author, 53; Prof Alan Cuthlege, Cambridge, 64; Mik Flood, director, ICA, 47; Prof Robert Goodden, architect, 87; Sir James Gowans, medical researcher, 72; The Rt Rev Robert Halliday, Bishop of Brechin, 64; Robin Hanbury-Tenison, explorer and author, 60; David Hatch, chairman, National Consumer Council, 57; Sir Michael Hopkins, architect. associate.

Burton's over regret in Lord Provost of Aberdeen, 66; Lord Provost of Aberdeen, 66; David Leach, potter, 85; Sir David Leach, potter, 85; Sir Chairman. Neil Macfarlane, chairman, Securicor, 60: Dr Tony O'Reilly, chairman and chief executive, H J Heinz, former Ireland rugby footballer, 61; Richard O'Sullivan, actor, 52; Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, author, 69; Michael Rosen, poet and writer, 50, Lynn Saville. photographer, 46; Elizabeth Söderstrom, soprano, 69; Mary Spillane, founder, Colour Me Beautiful, 46; David Tomlinson, actor, 79.

in Memoriam





Tuesday May 7 1996

Politeness pays dividends, page 12

BT launches free helpline for small businesses, page 12

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian



Cool heads . . . British Airways staff replace traditional felt hats with new straw models for summer wear, made by family firm J Albert & Co of Luton

Rich nations seek deal to Consumer credit close costly UN bodies

HE Group of Seven leading industrial nations is planning to use next month's summit in Lyons as a launching pad for a new "partner-ship" with developing countries, with the aim of building political support for reform of the United Nations. President Chirac of France. chairman of the summit, is planning to invite for the first time the heads of the international Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organisation to attend a cial lunch session of the

The goal is to begin the process of eliminating the over-lap between global organisa-tions, with the United Nations trade organisation, which already qualify for bi-lateral debt reduction a gold sale by the IMF will and has already experienced with damage to be IMF state of the countries of the assistance. The Bundesbank fears that a gold sale by the IMF will and has already experienced withdrawal by the US.

counterpart, Unido, seen as immediate candidates for reform or even phasing out. Officials preparing for the summit believe the presence

of the IMF managing director. Michel Camdessus, the Presi-dent of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, and the director-general of the World Trade Organisation, Renato Rugglero, will smoothe the process of reform. The G7 leaders realise that

reforms of international organisations without the advice and consent of a broader group of countries To emphasise the concept of

they can no longer dictate

veil a plan for dealing with the debts owed by poor. G7 heads of government, at which the future of the UN's highly indebted countries to economic organisations will organisations such as the World Bank and IMF.

Uncted, and its industrial | such as Uganda and Bolivia | Germany to sell from its own will also be given access to a scheme repaying debts to the World Bank and IMF. Developing countries, and aid organisations such as Ox-

fam, complain that debt repayments to the multilateral organisations are draining resources from health, education and other needs. Some 50 per cent of the debt servicing on the \$640 billion (£425 billion) of loans held by the poorest countries flows back to the World Bank and IMF, which hold about one-

However, reaching an agreement in time for the Lyons summit, scheduled for German government to remove a key obstacle. Germany is refusing to allow a small sale of IMF gold to help finance the IMF's share of the

Ofth of the debt

gold reserves to finance its domestic fiscal deficit —

Similarly, some countries, including Germany and Japan, believe that the debt reduction plan, which would effectively lead to the prepay-ment (equivalent to cancellation) of 90 per cent of the multilateral debt of poor countries, goes too far. They would prefer to stick with the 67 per cent figure which applies to bilateral and commerical debt.

Both countries four that the scheme, now keenly sup-ported by the United King-dom, the United States and financial integrity of the IMF and World Bank.

Among the most vulnerable of the UN organisations for abolition or reform is thought

"ALKS are advanced on a takeover by the credit company Provident Fi-nancial of Intrum Justitia, the largest debt collector in Britain and Europe, the Guardian has learned. Should

Dan Atkinson

the deal go ahead, it would mean a potential headache for regulators. A senior Intrum source

said Provident had been in to examine the company's books, and suggested an offer was imminent. Combined profits for the two groups There would be possible conflicts of interest between

Provident's credit-supply role and Intrum's debt-collec activities, but the Office of Fair Trading, which regulates both types of business, would be powerless to stop the OFT intervention before

the deal could be justified on competition grounds only. As Provident and Intrum are in different businesses, and their respective market shares would be unaffected by any takeover, this route for vetting the deal would be closed to the OFT. Furthermore, should the

merged company fail to build "Chinese walls" to divide in-formation on debtors from the marketing of credit, the OFT

firm set to grab debt collector

might find it difficult to act

until it had received hard evidence of "consumer detri-ment", evidence supplied by local authority trading stan-

dards departments. Such proof would be hard to come by, as it would be diffi-cult to detect abuse by a credit supplier of Intrum's huge database of debtors.

Provident is the country's largest supplier of traditional weekly-collected credit. It has 1.2 million customers and 9.150 agents. Profits rose 25 per cent to £101.1 million last Intrum is Swedish-owned.

Exchange, and has its Euro-pean base in Amsterdam. By the end of 1995, its net asset value per share stood at just over 25p. In the same year, the total value of cases in stock rose 10 per cent to £1.9 billion.

Lord Hollick's MAI holds a Lord Hollick's MAI holds a
19 per cent stake in Intrum,
but MAI's February merger
with Lord Stavens's United
News & Media, publisher of
the Daily Express and Sunday
Express, effectively put the
stake up for sale as MAI
reshapes itself.
Page a US debt collector

Payco, a US debt collector with which Intrum has a close relationship, has been named as a possible bidder, but the Guardian has learned that Provident seems close to

Investors look **News in brief** Sky-ward for soothing set

This week

of results

A SHAKY stock market will look to some of the UK's biggest companies for support, starting with British Sky Broadcasting and BP

BSkyB should show sharply higher third-quarter profits of £71.2 million, against £49 million a year ago.

BP is expected to report a jump in first-quarter profits from £461 million to between £522 million and £584 million. thanks to higher oil prices. But on Thursday Royal Dutch/Shell Group is ex-pected to report barely changed first-quarter results. Sainsbury will continue its fall from grace with a drop from £808.2 million to between £770 million and

Whitbread will show a modest rise in full-year profits from £255 million to £276 million-£287 million.

IBM to license Mac system

Apple, the troubled US com-puter firm, is to license its vaunted Macintosh operating system to IBM, in an agree-ment launched yesterday. IBM will be allowed to sublicense the system to other computer makers, and, while Big Blue will not make Macs, analysts said the agreement would help Apple boost the number of Macintosh users.

The agreement is a boon for Apple's flagging Macintosh market share, but analysts said it was not wide-ranging

Dow takes dive

Fears about US interest rates sent shares plummeting in New York. The Dow Jones fell

Rowland staying on David Rowland is to stay on

as chairman of Lloyd's of London for a further year, the insurance market will confirm today. The move will take effect when his current threeyear contract expires at the

American Notebook

Clinton basks in jobs sunshine



Mark Tran

HE US economy is giving precious little help to Senator Bob Dole in his faltering bid to evict President Clinton from the White Health Pack propert of infor-House. Each nugget of information released this year only reinforces the impres sion of sound economic lead ership by Mr Clinton, al-though much of the credit has to so to the Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan.

The administration could barely contain its glee following the latest set of figures, which pointed to steady

For a team that won the 1992 election on the motto "It's the economy stupid", the state of the economy alone would steer Mr Clinton to a second term. Things could still blow up in his face: a stock market meltdown; an unexpected slowing of the economy. But one of Wall Street's most astute economists, Stephen Roach of Morgan Stanley, has already de-clared the President a sure

thing in November.
While most political commentators have declared Mr Dole out for the count because of his political ineffective-ness, it is the chugging American economy that will prove his greatest liability and Mr Clinton's most potent weapon, as the political sea-

son picks up steam.
Yet only a few months ago, the economic outlook hardly looked promising for Mr Clinton. The economy grew a pal-try 0.5 per cent in the last

But following last year's whimper, the economy started 1996 with a bang, creating 631,000 jobs in February and then 178,000 jobs in March. Initial estimates for first-quarter growth came in at a robust 2.8 per cent, a scare for the bond markets but encouraging news for

American workers.
The April jobs report brought further good tidings for the administration, with the unemployment rate dropping to 5.4 per cent, its lowest since February 1995.

VEN the fact that job growth was stagnant, just 2,000 jobs created, calming Wall Street fears of an overheating economy. But for political purposes

the 5.4 per cent rate was a huge boost. In an election year it is, unsurprisingly, the unemployment rate rather than the yield on the benchmark 30-vear treasury bond that counts.

George Bush was undone, apart from by his lack of campaigning talent, by a steady stream of dismal unemployment figures stuck at 7 per cent and over, even hitting 9
per cent in key states such as
California.

It was unfortunate for Mr

Bush that the economy just started to turn around as Mr Clinton took office. Since then, as the White House never tires to point out, the economy has created 8.4 mil-

True, there has been much fretting over the downsizing, another buying opportunity.

stagnant wages and general economic insecurity that Pat-

rick Buchanan tapped into for

a brief moment.

But recent studies from the administration and business organisations have undercut the conventional wisdom that are hamburger-flipper jobs.
The Council of Economic

Advisers concluded in a report last month that more than two-thirds of the new jobs that had come into being since 1993 were paid abovemedian wages, that the vast majority of new jobs were full-time and that the proportion of workers having to do several jobs had remained constant since the 1980s.

The Committee for Eco nomic Development, a business research group, and the National Association of Manufacturers back the adminis tration's findings: "We tend to agree with the administration that some of the hand-

wringing is inappropriate."
In an ironic twist, the bust ness groups appealed to Republicans to resist attack-ing the administration on the anxiety over corporate lay

crats, the business groups called for invest-ment in education and training, so that people who lose jobs can move successfully to the better jobs that are being

There is evidence that the administration's message is getting through to the public. Consumer confidence, as measured by the Conference Board, a private business research group, hit its highest level in six years in April.

So what can go wrong? There are fears that inflation is poised to make a comeback after being under wraps for a decade. Long-term rates, reflecting those anxieties, have cracked through 7 per cent and some economists expect them to hit 8 per cent early next year. Higher longterm rates will slow down the but by then

Despite the fears of the bond market, considerable disagreement exists on the inflation threat. Labour costs are what really counts in measuring inflation, despite all the fuse over rising commodity prices, and wage infla-tion has been remarkably stable at around 3 per cent for more than two years now, well below the previous cycli-cal peak of 4.3 per cent during

February 1989. Some economists go so far as to argue that if the unemployment rate falls to 4 per cent by the end of the decade, wage inflation will still remain low because of outsourcing, downsizing and competition from cheap labour around the world. In any case the vigilant Fed stands watch, and Mr Greenspan will probably raise rates at the end of the summer in a pre-emptive strike against

What really strikes terror into the White House is a stock market crash. There are red flags, such as the ratio of share price to earnings. The current P/E ratio of 25.4 is higher even than in 1987, be-fore the market plunge. Another warning sign of a peak-ing bull market is the scramble by private compa-nies to go public with initial public offerings.

If there is a crash, Mr Dole's reassuring figure

might appeal to shaken voters. But then, the great crash of 1996 might be seen as just

more than 50 points in prelunch trading to 5431.07 as dealers worried about corpo-rate growth prospects — be-fore ticking up slightly in the early afternoon. In Tokyo, the Nikkei fell more than 150 points to close at 21,662.38. The Hang Seng was down 36.7 at 10,697.54. Assembling parts Closer links between Lucas Industries, the car parts mannfacturer, and the American Varity Corporation, which is in the same field, are being examined by both companies,

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Eurotunnel faces MEB agrees to action in courts American bid

NGRY Eurotunnel Ashareholders yesterday threatened legal action against the company's bankers, calling on them to write off huge amounts of its

The chairman of the French Adacte Eurotunnel shareholders' association, Albert Gauffret, said he was "extremely unhappy" over a proposed bank plan to allow lenders to own up to 49 per cent of Eurotunnel in a debt for

The association's lawyer, Georges Berlioz, later coned that various claims could be brought against the company, including suing the lenders for liability as so called "shadow directors" of the company and for exces-

Eurotunnel has been negofroze interest payments on its | but they fell back later.

huge debts last September.

£3.5 billion of debt. Mr Gauffret said that the banks should write off two thirds of their debt and con-vert the outstanding debt into shares at between 25 to 35 francs per share, the amount

market price. Patrick Ponsolle quickly moved to reassure shareholders that their rights would be protected. The speculation led to a slight rise in Eurotunnel

refinancing programme, with a number demanding an increased stake in the company if they agree to convert be-tween £2.5 billion to

Eurotunnel's co-chairman

Last week the company's 25 leading banks received an outline plan, which included an exchange of debt for up to 49 per cent of Eurotunnel's

But some of these banks have strongly criticised the

the stock was bought at by shareholders instead of the

tiating a refinancing package shares on the Paris Bourse, with 225 bank lenders since it up 0.20 francs at 5.90 francs.

Dan Atkinson

month of its bid for MEB.

Power, which the Govern-ment wooed as a trade buyer for Britain's nuclear reactors, has been rumoured as an other possible suitor.

Should all of these factors come together, MEB — one of the biggest of the original regional electricity companies, with 2.2 million customers and turnover of £621.6 million — could be at the centre of a four-cornered bidding

ity Cinergy of Cincinnati, remains the only one on the

N AGREED \$1.7 billion offer for the Midlands Electricity power company is expected to be announced later today. General Public Utilities, the US generator, has clinched a friendly offer for the Midlands

bid at about 430p a share. GPU, which operated the nuclear plant at the heart of the 1978 Three Mile Island disaster, may not, however, find the bidding easy. The British generator PowerGen is likely to decide this week whether to mount a legal challenge against Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang's veto last

Should judicial review of Mr Lang's decision produce a result in PowerGen's favour, it could return to the fray and bid again for MEB, in which it holds a 20 per cent stake. gestions that another US bidder, Houston Industries, may

As it is, the GPU offer, backed by the smaller US util-

table. Even if PowerGen were to bow out gracefully, it would make a profit of perhaps £80 million on its stake.
Following Mr Lang's announcement last Thursday
that the "golden shares" held by the Government in the two generators, PowerGen and National Power, would be retained, effectively blocking US takeovers, American interest has been concentrated counter-bid for MEB. To com-plicate matters further, Duke tion companies.

Co-op gives 'divi' an electronic jolt

Martyn Halsall

HE Co-op is taking a step towards reintro-ducing fully its historic dividend by bringing its oldest customer benefit into the electronic age.
A swipe-card "divi". launched today, is set to pay out more than £1.5 mil-lion next year in Northern Ireland amid forecasts that Co-op membership will double in the province. The £2 million Belfast Co-

K 55 32.5

Revival on the cards

receive a 5 per cent repayment from their purchases of Co-op brands; about 40 per cent of total sales. Cards will be swiped tem, immediately record-

tem, immediately recording purchases and calculating dividend. Payments will be made twice a year, with an expected £50,000 a year — the odd pence from the "divi" — likely to benefit voluntary and community require

80,000. Members will Dividends declined rapidly during the 1960s and 1970s as payments and ad-ministrative costs threatened to outstrip benefits. Less than 1 per cent of Co-op business now awards the "divi", traditionally paid at one shilling (5p) in the pound and the source of

ciothes, shoes and school-

in Northern Ireland and the "divi" — likely to benefit voluntary and community groups.

The Co-op scheme begins as Tesco and Sainsbury are examining potential sites in the province.

The co-op has anticipated new competition by launching a petrol price war and announcing plans for a standard chartered, United Biscuis.

That its introduction will to Belfast in 1889.

The odd pence from the "divi" — likely to benefit voluntary and community groups.

The Co-op scheme begins as Tesco and Sainsbury are examining potential sites in the province.

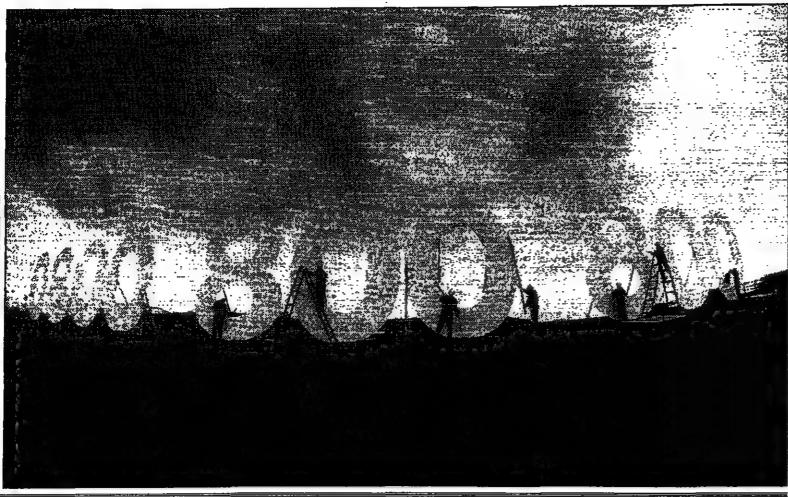
The Co-op has anticipated new competition by launching a petrol price war and announcing plans for a store that its introduction will raise membership to belfast in 1889. op initiative, in all 26 stores across Ulster, devel-ops a pilot project tested in nine stores in Scotland and the south-east of England

One moment. caller, we're just checking that new BT number for you

DRIVERS in the Exeter barea today are in for a big surprise. Britain's largest telephone number, with digits 20 feet high — pictured right - has been installed at the junction of the M5 and the A30 to mark a new BT service.

The free helpline, on 0800 800 800, links callers to Business Connections, de-signed to give small and medium companies advice on telecommunications. The number, which replaces 152 for business customer in-quiries, will offer tips on computers, telephones, in-formation technology and price discounts.

Sue Davidson, director of Business Connections, said the service would "focus all BT's wealth of resource and expertise on the needs of smaller and medium-sized



Service with a smile please

Assistants often feel servile being polite to important than quality of customers but such attention is priceless.

But there remains some show them how to use a cash company wishes to invest.

Small business may hire a school leaver or family friend, the company and in whom the part-time staff as necessary.

But there remains some show them how to use a cash company wishes to invest. customers but such attention is priceless for a small firm, maintains Suzi Pritchard

risited a small, local telecommunications shop to buy batteries for the por-table telephone I had bought there, persuaded by promises of first-rate, aftersales care. The owner-man-ager was absent but a young woman sat at his desk. eating a sandwich and flicking through a magazine.

'Er, excuse me ... began. She put down her magazine but not her food and, in a sullen, irritable way, asked; 'Well?" Her manner became positively hostile when I admitted that I didn't know the type of battery I needed. After some futile disarrang-

ing of shelves she ordered me to return later in the week. I adjourned to a branch of a large multiple where the sales clerk was knowledgeable, lowest price is generally less

WAS lunchtime when I | friendly and well-trained. I don't intend to return to the small shop.

Every consumer has borror stories of assistants who gos-sip while customers fume: waiters who get your order wrong and sneer if you com-plain; or the butcher's assistant with dirty fingernails. whose only vocabulary seems to be 'T dunno''.

John Nicholson, a psychologist and international authority on customer service who has advised the Cabinet Office and the Nato Taskforce for Bosnia, says customer care is a prime area in which small and medium-sized businesses can compete and do so effectively.

thing peculiarly British in equating service with being servile. On the Continent, service is seen as a mutually enjoyable and rewarding relationship — Sancho Panza shares his master's life. Americans know that today's waiter can be tomorrow's suc-

cess story.

Mr Nicholson believes the British dislike of providing service was aggravated during the second world war when shortages and rationing allowed the service classe who had been badly treated by the gentry and newly emerged middle classes, to

HERE is often, too. the unspoken asvice occupations require no training. domain of the female and unmacho.

show them how to use a cash register, watch to see if they are honest and then turn them loose on customers with

But customer care training and qualifications are avail-able through the system of National Vocational Qualifications (details from the local Training and Enterprise Council or Local Enterprise Company in Scotland), based on practical achievements and experience with minimal classroom time.

appalling effect.

Launched last month, the new Level 2 and Level 3 standards and qualifications have been produced by the Customer Service Lead Body. Most training providers can design the programme to suit a particular business and grants are sometimes available to cover training costs.

John Dunn of the RSA, the warding body for this particular NVQ, says the system is

company wishes to invest. available and BBC for Busi-The qualification can be highly cost-effective and provide the necessary training for those dealing with the public in most areas of

UT Jacqueline Jayes, training of-ficer for the Federation of Small Businesses, has reservations. The federation says the system is unsuited to the large numbers of very small businesses which employ 10 or fewer people.

It is lobbying the Govern-ment to provide funding for employees to achieve each of the units that make up an NVQ - not only the final qualification - and to provide low-cost, training sessions in customer care and

Mr Nicholson believes smaller firms could organise well suited to the needs of their own training pro-small businesses whose staff grammes at minimal cost to their own training pro-

ness has a list of more than 90

training video packages, from Mr Nicholson's Serve Them Right to specialist training for all areas of commerce. Staff who feel valued and respected are more likely to treat the public in the same way - the essence of good customer care - making shopping or visiting a pub or

office, or any establishment that deals with the public, a pleasure for the consumer. Small businesses are per-fectly suited to creating such an atmosphere when customers are treated as people whose preferences matter. And with so many smaller businesses failing, the invest-ment in staff training can pay the largest dividend of all - a healthy balance sheet and a

growing clientele.

Customer Service Lead Body, Ascot, Berkshire SL5 8BJ, tele-phone 01344 886223.

Higher hurdle for loan scheme

CHUNDREDS of small firms that received state supible to apply this year because the Government has changed the terms and conditions of its Loan Guarantee Scheme with effect from Barbara Roche, Labour's

small business spokeswoman, says a parliamentary written answer shows that about 700 fewer firms will qualify for the loans under the new rules. "The Government claims it wants Britain to be the enterprise centre of Europe, and yet the minister has admitted that he is slashing help to small firms by 10 per cent." The Loan Guarantee Scheme wa introduced in 1981 to provide development capital to growing small firms that could not obtain losses from conventional sources because they were imable to administered by the Depart ment of Trade and Industry, grants loans for a minimum of two years.

It currently provides an 85 per cent guarantee on qualifying loans up to a max imum of £250,000 for established businesses trading for two years or more at the time of application. For other businesses the guaran tee is fixed at 70 per cent of borrowings up to £100,000.

□EIGHT out of 10 British small firms trade solely within the UK and, despite competition from foreign

suppliers, the majority of British small firms have not considered trading abroad. To help small firms make the most of their export potential, Barclays Bank has produced An Introduction to Importing and Exporting copies of which are available

DFLEDGLING firms in the North-west seeking funds to develop their businesses have found a champion in TEchinest, an agency that matches people with money to invest with companies starved of funds.

from branch managers.

Investors are typically business "angels", individ-uals with cash and expertise to invest where the banks and find managers fear to

For more information contact TEchlinvest at South & East Cheshire TEC Ltd. Business Link South and East Cheshire, PO Box 37, Dalton Way, Middlewich, Cheshire CW10 0UH.

FEWER management buyouts and buy-ins chose to float on the stock market in 1995, according to figures produced by the Centre for Management Buy Out Research, based at Notting ham University. Instead there has been an

increase in the number of trade sales — as corporate buyers have become more active - and in second buy outs and buy-ins.

Edited by Cells Westo

Buy-outs and buy-in exits Floet 🖸 Trade sele 🔲 Management buy-out 100

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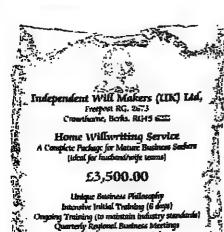
If you've ever thought of setting up your own business, you'll know the problems. Raising the necessary capital, finding premises, huying goods, handling of stock - the list is endless. It only there was a way to get around these difficulties. For over 10 years Westlink Worldwide has been teaching enterprising men and women how to make money from their own import/export business. With the Westlink Training Programme you learn at your own pace, when it suits, and at home. And while success is normally achieved in a matter of weeks, the 7 day quick start import/export profit plan means you could be successfully trading in days! In fact, many Westlink clients now earn in excess of £10,000 p.a. in their SPARE TIME simply for introducing buyers and sellers from different countries to each other. No prior knowledge or business experience is required, the Westlink Experts teach you how to set up and develop your business in easy-to-follow steps. The Westlink way also means you won't need to huy goods so there is minimal capital outlay, no product investment and no risk to you, Your only investment is your time. The Westlink Training Programme consists of 16 easy-to-road no largon units covering all the vital elements of running a business. For example we will show you which products are profitable and why, how to find quality products at a tiny fraction of retail cost, how to obtain samples, how to import goods without spending a penny and much much more. The course also includes actual case histories, sample letters and successful action plans which you can put into practice straight away. You also get a 9 month FREE Advisory Helpline, a World Contacts Directory and the opportunity to place FREE Advertisements in the Directory, plus regular update newsletters. And you'll benefit from our wide network of contacts across the world. We teach you how to make money from Import/Export WITHOUT THE PITFALLS. Remember, a single deal to represent one profitable product can mean a steady income for years! So if you are looking for financial independence without capital investment ... and a secure business unaffected by recession enroll with Westlink today. Phone with your credit card details on 0131-553 7620 or send the coupon with your payment for £95 to WESTLINK INTERNATIONAL TRADE,55 Constitution Street. Edinburgh EH6 7AY. Fax:0131-553 5518.

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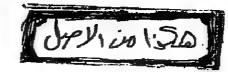
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Baroque can do an Italian job on the Derby hopes

IVE Derby entries do battle in the Chester Vase today, but victory can go to the only colt not entered at Epsom -High Baroque, who is set to follow the route taken by last year's Chester winner, Luso, and go for the Italian Derby

As a worthwhile pointer to the Derby, the Chester Vase is rather living on past glories. Not since Shergar in 1981 has the winner gone on to Classic

Indeed, of the 19 runners in the race which have run at Epsom in the years subsequent to Shergar, only the 1990 Chester runner-up Quest For Fame has won and no other colt has finished closer than fourth.

Best guide to the Vase in recent years has been the Ar-lington International Race-course Stakes run at New-bury, and it was this race that High Baroque won in decisive

"He has done nothing but Barry Hills must always be af-inprove and will get better forded the greatest respect at the stable's Mawingo at Warimprove and will get better when he tackles a mile and a half," said Peter Chapple-Hyam, trainer of High Baroque, following the colt's lat-

High Baroque had the speed to win over a mile first time out, but he is destined to make his mark over middle distances and the stable clearly has its horses in good shape for the three-day Chester meeting. Given that Quest For Fame

could not cope with Belmez here in 1990, defeat for the former's full brother Air Quest need not signal the end of his Epsom hopes.

A 16-1 chance for the Derby with Ladbrokes. Air Quest looked a useful performer in the making when slamming Set Adrift by five lengths at Newbury on his debut. The runner-up let the form down at Salisbury on Sunday, but Air Quest looks sure to go on to better things.

With 14 winners at this meeting over the past 10

forded the greatest respect at Chester. However, it will be a surprise if Prince Of My Heart is good enough to improve his trainer's fine

St Mawes, who chased home Storm Trooper in the nine furlongs Fellden Stakes at Newmarket, looks a bigger danger. He shapes like a stayer and the John Dunlop stable will be looking for a good run from this Shahrastani colt after notable big-race disappointments in recent

days. But it should pay to follow High Baroque (3.10) and Chapple-Hyam, who can also win the first two races on the card with speedy juvenile Carmine Lake (2.10) and Derby entry Legal Right

Geoff Wragg, another trainer who rarely leaves the Roodeye empty-handed, looks to have the answer to the Walker Smith & Way Handicap with Tatika (4.10). This fashion by three and a half years, in addition to five weighted on his return to the lengths last month. all-weather winner looks well

wick yesterday.
Michael Tabor, owner of High Baroque, was on the mark with Dr Massini at Kempton yesterday.

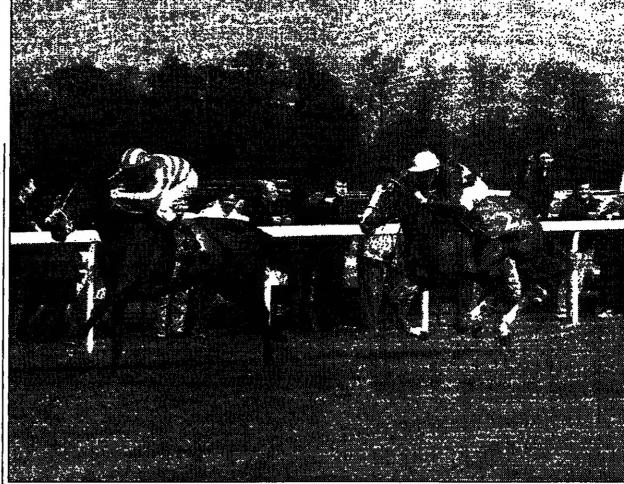
This Derby entry, trainer Michael Stoute's first winner for Tabor, beat the well-regarded Godolphin runner Wall Street in the Home Stud Maiden Stakes and this could

turn out to be useful form.

Desert Green repeated last year's victory in the Jubilee Handicap to complete a double for Dane O'Neill, who also won on Please Suzanne. Both winners are trained by Richard Hannon, who has backed O'Nell for the appren-tice championship. Desert Green's victory put O'Neill on

the 13-winner mark, two head of Feargal Lynch. Back on the Derby front, Ladbrokes shortened the Henry Cecil-trained Dushyan-tor to 8-1 from 10-1 after "good

support" yesterday. Trainglot, at 5-1 from 8-1 has been well backed with the



Chester runners and riders with TV form

3.40 Pharmacy 4.10 TATIKA (nap)

2.10 LILY AGNES CONDITIONS STAKES EVO SI \$7,418 1 ACTED TRAVELLER (31) (D) J Berry 8-10 .
41 POOT BATTALON (20) (D) R Hollimbrad 8-15
1 CARRING LAKE (20) (D) P Chapits-Hyan 8-5
1 WEST ESS GIRL (35) (D) P Evalue 8-5
2 CONNEARA (29) (D) C Dwyer 8-5
AMY (Smith 8-2

NPS: Carmine Lake S, Com Bettings 8-13 Carmine Lake. 9-4 Connemara, 8-1 Aziec Traveller. 14-1 Fsoi 50-7 Am

Channel 4

2.40 GROSVENOR MAIDEN STAKES 3YO 1m 21 75/46 C8,367 O GROSVENOR MADDEN STAKES 3YO 1so 24
54 AMBASSADOR (21) 8 Hike 3-0
ANCIENT GUEST N Calenghan 8-0
23 ARRHESE (28) C Botton 9-0
3-20 BOWNE (28) C Botton 9-0
3-0 BOWNE (28) C Cycle 8-0
4 CRABBUST PRIDE (21) A Bosiny 9-0
4 CRABBUST PRIDE (21) A Bosiny 9-0
2-LEGAL HIGHT (222) P Chapple-Hyam
05863 LOCK STYLE (13) R Holmshead 9-0
3 SHARTON (20) J Gosson 9-0

Doncaster tonight

7.30 Ela-Yie-Mo

Goings Good (mond to firm in places), it Depoins blinkers. 6.00 CAPRICONN SELLING STAKES 2YO M CLUTE #31 CONTRAVENE (25) (73) # Bern #-13

B CLASSIC SERVICES (18) # Palling #-11

@ GROVEFAR REVER (19) # Meetan #-11

RIVER BRIDD J NOTON #-11

SUPER SHERIFF M W Easterby #-11 y 43 ABSOLUTELY ABSTONE (2027) Fears 8
8 43 POLY BOOM (10) M (Anamon 8-6 ----8 30 RAHOMA (38) B Rottwell 8-6 ----TOP PORM TIPS/Poly lifeces 10, Contravene 8, Grovette Fill Betting 2-1 Poly Moor, 7-2 Grovetar Filyer 4-1 Confravene, (Treature Touch, Classic Services, 16-1 River Bend

7 0-02201 JURNOLE PATROL (140) M Pr-508 5-9-2
8 300-027 OCROS RIGO (140) KD Proton 4-9-2
8 300-027 OCROS RIGO (140) KD Proton 95-8-13 ...
9 00-024 DARCEY BUSSELL (1953) B Hirk 4-6-10 ...
10 D-14503 SOAKING (25) (07) P Bu grave 6-8-10 ...
11 341301 AMPSONIE VENTURE (13) (8) M Chapman 5-8-9
13 202503 MONES (18) J St tong 5-9-5 ...
14 000-0 BECCESTS OFERIA (10) Pat Minchell 4-8-0 ...
16 40-0500 ARC LABBY (19) (10) (10) F M Minchell 4-8-0 ...
17 (2505 CHESTIFUS (RIGOUS (10) (10) (10) S Bowring 5-7-10 ...
18 50-60-0 RIGOLAND (11) (10) J Wanneright 6-7-10 ...
19 FORSE TIPS: Timunder River 8, Abbasen 7, Kild Gry 5 Backleys (1-2 Superpride, 6-1 Alabang, 7-1 Awesome Venture, 8-1 Sp Darcey Bussell, Thunder Piver, Sycamore Lodge 7.00 MacREGOR CORY LIMITED STAKES 3YO OF ES,153

\$24.02: OUTSTAYED WELCOMS (27) (D) M Haynes 4-500-210 MAYA YA KEFAAN (23) (CD) N Babbage 4-8-6 05-0 ELA-YNE-MOU (17) L Cuman 3-8-6 05:10-0 MAJAL (13) (D) J Maueright 7-6-7 000.015- RIMO OF UNSCON (330) Mrs M RIMORY 4-8-6 00.000-4 PRIMSKA (7) Clay 5'-10 46559- BLASID CASCADE (2003 E Ince 4-7-10 PORMI TIPE: Prisson B, Blay D, Yellongy, 7-1 Fighting Time 89 9-2 Ela-Ye-Mon. 6-1 in The Money, 7-1 Fighting Time

8. OO MARRITRIS' MILE MAIDEN STARES INS C4,370

1 OSQUARED AWAY (12) J Pryme 4-9-10

2 COMEDIE ARRISTE (169) M Chapman 4-9-5

3 GARRISTE (169) M Chapman 4-9-5

4 DA LADY OF LESSING (10) Mrs J Cecil 4-9-6

5 2-3 CLASSE LEADER (21) S Wilsons 3-8-11

5 0 GOOL LEE SHAY (10) R Whales 3-8-11

6 MENTERODES BOY M MERCHEN 3-8-11

10 PEP TALK H Cecil 3-9-11

11 34 VICTORY BOUND (20) M Johnston 3-8-11

12 D BEGENT PET (19) Mrs Samb 3-8-6

13 O INDEMAR (19) F Les 3-8-6

14 O SENALPOSE STEMS (20) H Cecil 3-8-6

15 O SENALPOSE STEMS (20) H Cecil 3-8-6

16 DESTARDOSE STEMS (20) H Cecil 3-8-6

17 PEP TORM TIPES SENGEDORS S, Victory Bound 7, Chemic Leader 20-1 Segared Assey, Mr Speciator 8.00 MAURITUS WILE MAIDEN STAKES 100 64,370

8.30 PORT LUMS HARRICAP Im 22 60yde D4,328

1 2520-5 MR ROUGH (25) (BF) D Morts 5-8-10

2 5015-6 PR ROUGH (25) (BF) D Morts 5-8-10

2 5015-6 PRISSIENT RADBER (7) (0) K 109 4-9-5

3 00040- MRSWARD DARCER (822) Lady Visrtes 5-9-5

4 33-000 CARRILLY (7) Mass L Skids 4-9-4

6 105:10- ESSEN DARCER (222) Mas M Roveiny 4-9-2

7 0660-6 SARASCH STORM (25) M Ball 4-0-13

8 2005-0 LARGED (7) W Horn 3-0-12

9 3180-0 RASAVEL (10) (0) P Evant 6-0-11

10 40065- MASTER M-6-N (246) N SARASGH 4-8-11

11 20545 RARADRATA (12) R Homessad 4-0-8

12 600-00 SARTER M-6-N (246) N SARASGH 4-8-11

13 600-00 SARTER M-6-N (246) N SARASGH 4-8-11

14 600-00 SARTER M-8-N (246) N J ROMESTA 1-0-5

15 000-00 SARTER M-8-N (26) M SARASGH 3-8-5

16 00-00 SARTER M-8-N (26) M SARASGH 3-8-5

17 600-00 SARTER M-8-N (26) M SARASGH 3-8-5

18 00-00 SARTER M-8-N (26) M SARASGH 3-8-5

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D McKeoten 2

K Pallon 3

R Lappin 3

R Lappin 16

J Faming 13

N Cardale 20

3.10 CHESTER VASE (Group 2) 270 1m 4f 867ds 228,710 1 ARR QUEST (18) R Charton 8-10 ____ 1-0 CLASSIC EAGLE (17) S WINGING 8-10

17 HIGH BARDGAM (17) P Chappin-Hyun 8-10 2010-29 PHINCE OF MY HEART (13) (0) B Hole 3-10 2020-2 EASORD (21) G Wang 8-10 70-2 ST MANUSC (19) J UNIOP 8-10 PM TIPS: 28 Moved 8, High Barrays 7

3.40 EASL OF CHESTER HANDHOAP 3YO 7/ 122/ds 218,050

Boots with MENDO RAL BATAL larvels' companied 3rd. Bibbd (Editorish 71 Gd). BUALTACH: Bibrit 28 not, hung signt, soot belied, shind 2nd to Coyone Bluth (Breist by 71100), Gd-Fm). PRENIESS CAR Promised until school 21 cm, 151 7h to Serbe Tower Warmack 7m, Gd-Rh). KAZENEERAL Led 3-247 21 tower 11 cm, hung sight, Bayes on, without to Al Seele (Report Im. Gd-Fm). PROUD MONTHS Created west 11 cm, subspecially wenter, 82 and to Bothe Tower (Marwick 1m, Gd-Bill, ALPINE MICEANIAY) Not quicken last 21. 151 2nd to Arientersen (Folkestone 77, Fm).

4.10 WALKER SMITH & WAY HANDICAP 1m 21 75pts 211,022

4.40 PRINCE OF WALES HAMDICAP 3YO SE E7,304

801

10295-5 EASTERN POPONETS (20) (0) T Naughton 9-7

802

803 3241- TADED (197) (0) M. Johnston 9-7

803 27905-0 MRONT PARADE (16) (03) P Chapple-Hyers 8-13

804 5401-1 POLLY OCURANTY (47) (0) M Bismbard 8-7

805 32-420 PRIDE OF BRONTON (16) G Levis 8-5

807 50113- DARDE FLYER (168) (0) D Arbuhnol 7-13

808 3513-41 SECRET VOUCHER (24) (0) B McMatton 7-10

809 120-3 PLEASURE THEE (16) (0) C Scool 7-13

810 0-5465 DORPT TELL ANYONE (15) (0) P Evens 7-10

709 FOREN YIPEN Might Parade 8, Miles Rignet 9, Tyride Of British 6

Battings 7-2 Nagin Parade 5-1 Tation, 6-1 Price Of British. Eastern Prop Golightly, Secret Voucher, Danda Flyer, 13-1 Pigessure Tame

DONCASTER

2.20 (50: 1, ICE AGE, M Bard (12-1); 2, Cavier Royale (8-13 lav); 3, Refisiono-ough Boy (25-1), 8 ran. 15. 4. (R Williams) Toes: (23.00, (2.40, 9.1), Dual F.E.5 40, Trov (203.20, CSF CX0.53, NR; Our Home Land. 200.20, CSF CO.SJ. NR: Our Home Lars. 2.50 (STp. 1, BOLSHON, S D Wilhams (4-1); 2, Sea-Deer (11-2); 3, Barramak (12-1); 100-30 jr-lav La Suquet, Super Rocky, 8 ran. Nr, nt. J. Berry) Tote £480; 12-30, C1-50, C2-50, Dual F: CT. 10, CSF C25.34 . 3.20 (1m); 1, WIDDIN, K Fallon (Evens fav); 2, Anthelia (7-2); 3, Lucayan Prince (5-1), 4 ren. 2, U. (R Cheriton) Tote: C1.70, Dual F: C3.70, CSF C4.97 Tes: 118.01 GS2.5.2.7.
5.05 (1m 3f 200)yds; 1, ESKIBO NEL, F Lynch (3-1); 2, Braille (5-1); 3, Monarch (7-2), 11-4 tav Tessago, 7 ran. Nr., 4, U Spearing) Tole: £3.00; £1.40, £2.60. Dual P: 50.00. CS5: £24.78.

PLACEPOT: £45.00.

QUADPOT: £9.10.

.55 (1m 2f 80yds): 1, QROUND GAME,

HAYDOCK
2.00 (1m 2f 120yda): 1, CAMPORESE, J. Reld (13-2): 2, Place de L'Opere (11-2): 3, Classilo Paristine (25-1). 7-4 fav Asthra. 10 ran. 9, 2 (P Chappie-Hyam) Toto: E5.90. 21.90. E2.10. E5.00. Dual F: £3.10. Trio: 13.90. E5.70. Trio: 14.90. E5.70. Trio: 15.70. Trio: 15.70.

112.34
2.30 (71): 1, COOL EDGE, P Robinson (4-1)-fav: 2, General Monants (15-2): 3, Bend On The Russ (10-1): 4-1 (1-tav Royal Philosopher: 12 ran. 2, 3 lift Tomplane) Total (4,40; 52.10; 52.30; 52.80; Dual F 523.50; CSF C32.53; Tricast 5215.85; NR Some Horse, Amended Result Following a stew-lards inquiry, Royal Philosopher who limits and inquiry Royal Philosopher who limits hed 5cd was disqualified and planed tast

\$120.42.
4.35 (71 30yds): 1, MUSICK HOUSE, J. Reid (4-5 lav): 2, Kalfol (4-1): 3, Reushan (18-1): 11 ran. 5, 2% (9 Chapple-Hyam) Tota: \$1.50; \$1.10, \$1.70; \$2.50; Dual F: \$3.10. Trio: £19.70 CSF: £5.27.

2.10 (1m): 1, WHITEWATER AFFAIR, R Cochrane (11-8 fav): 2, My Lewiola (33-1): 3, Selectron (5-2): 9 ran. 13, 3, (M Staule) Tols. 2.20; Cl.60. 070. Cl.20. Duel F Cl. 22, 20, Trio. C77.00. CSF 'C34-98. 2.40 (1on of e2yde): 1, PROPOSING, 6 Hind (Evers): 2, Bathaceian Standhine (4-5 fav) 2 ran. 13, 13 Gosden) Tois: 21.80 3.10 (e1): 1, PLEASE SUZANNE, Dane O'Neill (4-1): 2, Beltes (8-1): 3, Emp Coest-ling (20-1): 100-30 fav April o'Neill (4-1): 1, 11, 25, (R Hannon) Tote: 14.20, 21.90, 22.80, 55.00, Dual F: C19.10, Trio: C109.10 GSF: C11.01.

231.91.
3.40 (1m): 1, DESERT GREEM, Dane O'Neili (8-2 tav); 2, Clan Ben (6-1): 3, Crampton Hill (7-1). 13 ran. 8. 8. (8 Hennon) Tota: (55.90, C1.90, C2.40, C3.90, Dual F : 70.40 Trio: DE22.20, C8F: C31.95. Tricust £173.67. Treast \$173.67.
4.10 (1ss 4f): 1, ARTIC COURSER, A Wholan (10-1): 2, Nordansk (33-1): 3, General Mouther (100-30 fev), 15 ran. Sh hd, 2. [6 Coagrove! Tote: C15.00; £4.10, £4.90, £1.70. Dual F: 586.60. Tric: £80.50. CSF: £256.91. Tricast £1,222.88. NR: Floid Fidge. Amended result: Following a siswards inquiry, the first two placings were raversed.

raversed.
4-60 (1m 10: 1, TROAAN RESK, Paul Eddery (5-1 co-lav); 2, Kriscilifie (16-1); 3, Parest Robins (5-1 co-lav), 5-1 co-lav Cloude Hill, Docklands Limo, Royal Diversion, 10 ran, K. nd. (6 Levels) Tote: 52.20; 51.80, 54.00, 52.70, Dual F: 535.10. Tric: 5120 80, CSF: 575.55, Tricast (404 49. 5.10 / Limb 1, DR MASSINI, R Cochrane. 5.10 (1m): 1, DR MASSINI, R Cochrane, (9-4 fav); 2, Wall Street (5-1); 3, Axford (4-1), 9, zan, 14, 3 (M Stouts) Toto: 54 40; 51,30, 51,50, 61,70. Dual F: 57.20. Trio: 523 80. CSF: 514.45. JACKPOT: £19.519.80.

2.25 (77): 1, **BY GODSON**, R Lappin [25-11: 2, Broctone Gold (11-2): 3, Sal-lyornally (50-1), 7-4 lav Sagebrush Roller. 16 ran 1 hd. iJ Eyrey Tole: C27.00: C5 30 52.70, C25 50, Dual F. 087.40, True: Not work CSF C169 03

2.55 (4 m 44 #Sydnip 1, LATVIAN, A Cuthane 110-1). 2, Bilbosis (5-2 lavi). 3, Fr. C157-40. Tric: Not won CSF. C210.05. Trict: S22: C1.00, C1.100, C1.30, C1.

Newton Abbot (N.H.)

ing Good to soft (soft in places). < Denotes blishers 1.55 POSTERS HANDICAP HURBLE 2m DI CA,143

22...2 RECOMENSIONE 1684 MOVICE CHARS Set 1
1 1-1111 JHZ (17) (D) R Hodges 8-12-4 1
2 21413 HYBLACKTHORN (10) (CD) (RF) P Not 2 2FF90 CASPLAN BELLIGA (17) S Knjett 8-11-6 1
4 12423 MOUSE BIRD (14) (RF) D Gandolk 8-11 5 (PP326 OLLIVER BURCHT (27) Mrs. J Sideoly 6 24-354 Q RADESTY (17) Mrs. K Whathouse 6-17 6P HARCHEN OUT TO DRY (41) C Stroks 5 3 1-F295 ROBERT'S TOY (56) M Pipe 5-10-8 ... Bettlegs 5-2 Marce Bird. 11-4 Juz. 4-1 hyblacknown, R Caspun Beluga. 33-1 Oliver Duckett. Reggerly

13146 PATE MINISTRE (20) (0) F Champion 11-11-10
27-46-9 SAFFAMR (12) (02) S Kingin 9-11-7
LASCO JAMES THE FIRST (20) (CD) P Nichola 8-11-7
LASCO JAMES THE FIRST (20) (CD) P Nichola 8-11-7
LASCO JAMES THE FIRST (20) (CD) P Nichola 8-11-7
LASCO JAMES THE FIRST (20) (D) R Alou 11-11-0
18280 DR ROCKET (40) (D) R Debrin 11-10-0
18280 DR ROCKET (40) (D) R Debrin 11-10-0
197048 RATHERI BHARP (11) (CD) C Pophum 10-10-0
197048 RATHERI BHARP (11) (CD) C Pophum 10-10-0
1982-1 James The First, 7-2 Bengiann Lancasier, 9-2 The Saster, 7-1 B

\$3-6110 WORLD EXPRESS (24) (D) (SF) 8 Millimen 6-11-12

61125 YUSRALEE (7) (0) M Pipe 4-11-7 20201 COXWELL STEPTOR (6) Mrss H Knight 6-11-6

0PS/TP2- IVE CALLED TIME (480) Mrs 8 Maurie B-12-0
08-603 LAVALIGHT (11) J Dalosse B-12-0
22PFP-5 SOUTHWELLY GALE (6) M Pipe B-12-0
50P-14-3 STORMY SUBSET (6) Mrs 1 Dennis B-11-9
167-143 STORMY SUBSET (6) Mrs 1 Dennis B-11-9
189 T-4 Green Hit, 11-4 he Called Time, 9-2 Well Timed, 5-1 Sporm

\$\overline{\text{5}} \cdot{\text{CORRAGE BEST HARDREAP MARRIE \$\text{a}\$ = 20,647 \\
40733-0 \text{GLARDALE (59) Miss Y Wilkams \$-12-0 \\
300302 \text{PATMER O'PRIER (15) L'Edwards \$-11-12 \\
33-1027 \text{BLUE LAWS (55) (6F) P Nichols 6-11-12 \\
12-432P \text{GUIPE LAWS (55) (6F) P Nichols 6-11-12 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (240) W Tymer 9-11-11 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (240) W Tymer 9-11-11 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (240) R (30) M None 7-11-2 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (240) R (30) M None 7-11-2 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (24) M None 7-11-2 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (21) (16) M Pipe 6-11-0 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (21) P No Comple 11-10-7 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (21) P No 6-10-5 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (21) P No 6-10-5 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (21) P No 6-10-5 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (21) P Nichols 8-10-0 \\
12-432P \text{COMPRIER (23) P Nichols 8-10-0 \\
12-432P \text{COMP

4,25 COURAGE BEST HANDICAP HURDLE 3m 21 C2,647

A.00 (1m 2f 32yda): 1, GENEROSUS, W Ryan (2-9 iav): 2, Candle Smile (8-2): 3, Beacontree (14-1). 6 ran. 4, 2K, (H Cecil) Tota: C1.10: £1.20, £1.10. Dual F: £1.40 CSF-£2.23. 1060 CT.10; 17.20; 17.10; Duan F. 17.40 CSF 12.23. 4.30 (67): 1, LEGEND OF ARAGON, G Duffleid (5-1); 2, Beyford Threat (7-1); 3, High Spirits (5-1); 5-4 fav Plan For Profil: 12 ran. 2, nt j. Glover) Tote: 14.00; 12.50, 12.70; 12.80; Dual F. £14.00; Trior: 578 90. CSF: £44.19. 5.00 (19m): 1, LUCKY BEA, Dale Gibson 12-1); 2, Stevendhel Knight (6-1); 3, Win-sten (8-1); 5-4 lav Parmost. 11 ran. Nt. nt. (M W Easterby) Tote: £18.30; £3.60, £2.00, £2.90; Dual F. £40.40; Trior: £48.30 CSF 500.70; Tricast 1801 49. PLACEPOTT \$199.80. QUADPOTT: £34.80.

WARWICK 2.15 (5): 1, NIGHTERD, M Hills (9-2), 2, Open Credit (8-15 lav); 3, Third Party (50-1), 5 ran. 1 5. (8 Hills) Tote: C5 60: C2.30. C1.20. Dual F C3.60. CSF; C7.27. NR: Vax Rec.

Star.
2.45 (77): 1, MAWINGO, G Milligan (11-2 la); 2, 3ylva Paradise (16-1): 3, Ed's FeBy (14-1): 15 ran %, 1% (G Wrage) Tote 05:30; 25:50; 65:00 na.90; Duni F. EB:30. Tric. 1268:80. CSF 28:290. Tricast 1: 1: 10:33. NR: Victim of Love.
2.15 (1m. 27 16:5)yds): 1, MARWEY WHITE, SGallard (8-1): 2, Beaumont (5-1); 4, Mark 15 Mar

CSF: £48.00. Tricest: £274.31. NR: Sun Carcus.

3.48 (*fm 4f 115 yda): 1, TINTARA, M Hills 15-2 (*f-inv): 2, Ucol (9-2): 3, Minerisem (5-2): 4-lav): 8 ran. 18. 18. (B Hills) Total £2.70. £1.10. £1.30. £1.80. Dual F: £5.20. CSF: £13.91. Tricest: £28.03.

4.45 (87): 1, ROCKCRACKER, P BLOOMING (10-1): 2, Deathing Democar (4-1 (*f-fav): 3, Mills (10-1): 4-1 (*f-fav): Speedy Classic. 19 ran. 18. Au. (8 Margarson) Tota: £13.70: £3.80. £2.10. £2.50. Dual F: £6.30. Tric: £274.40. CSF: £49.34.

4.45 (13th): 1, EL PERHTENTE, D McCabe (7-4 tzv): 2, Karmari (10-1). 3, Ood Democar (12-1). 18 ran. 4, nk. (D Loder) Total: £2.60. £1.10. £5.30. £3.40. Dual F: £27.40. Tric: £1.30. £3.50. £1

2.00 (2m 2f Helio): 1, LESSONS LASS, Mr J Culloty (8-11 favi; 2, Out Reading (4-1): 3, Outsang (12-1), 10 ran. 3, 7, (Miss H Kriight) Tote 51.80; £1.50, £1.50, £2.20, Dusi F: £2.50, CSF: £4.44.

F: (2.20, LSF: M.44.)
2.80 (2m 7f 110-yels Ch): 1, REFRLIN'S
LAD, Mr. J. Collicty (9-4 tay): 2, Militeralis
(7-1): 3, Man of The Garange (7-2): 10 rat
M. S. J. Edwards Tote C2.80; C1.30, 52.80,
52.40, Dual F: (33.10, CSF: C18.44, Tricast
628.59

22.40. Dual F: E33.10. CSF: C18.44. Tricast C53.52
3.00 (2m 3f 110yds Ch): 1, THE MINE CAPTAIN, G Upton (5-2); 2, Format Feather (7-4 lav); 3, Bleesmad Grave (8-1); 8 ran. 20, 10 (S Sherwood) Toto: E3.40; 13.20. E18 E20.0. Dual F: E5.80 CSF: E7.25
Tricast E25.61
3.30 (2m 2f Helio): 1, MOAT GARDEN, G Bradley (4-7 lav); 2, Handboon (7-1); 3, Springfield Demoer (8-1), 7 ran. 5, 5%, (1 Belding) Toto: E1.80, E1.20, E1.90. Dual F: C3.80 CSF: E5.40
4.00 (2m 7f 110yds Ch); 1, CHELPOUR, Mr Richard While (5-2 lav); 2, Romany (Img (7-2); 3, Dual F: 24.80; CSF: E1.50, E1.30, E1.50, E1.50,

FONTWELL 2.00 (3m 2f 110yde Ch); 1, LENON'S MILL, D Bridgwater (2-0 fev). 2, Rever Cloud (33-1): 3, Eyre Point (15-2), 4 ran. 3f, 13 (M Pice) Tois: £1.30. Dual F. £3.60. CSF: £5.81.

CSF: \$5.81.
2.30 (2mr. 2f Hdle): 1, DIAMOND CUT, D
2.30 (2mr. 2f Hdle): 1, DIAMOND CUT, D
Sridgwater (2-1 lav); 2, Hoetile Witness
(9-2): 3, More Bible (25-11. 11 ran. 4, 14, (M
Prop) Tote: \$2.90; 1.30. CT 60. £2.70. Duni F
\$0.80. CSF: \$12.40.
2.00 (2mr. 2f Chit. 1, POND HOUSE, D
2.00 (2mr. 2f Chit. 1, POND HOUSE, D
2.00 (2mr. 2f Chit. 1, POND HOUSE, D
2.00 (2mr. 3f Chit. 1, POLDEN PRIDE, A
2.80 (2mr. 3f Chit. 1, POLDEN PRIDE, A
MCCoy (6-5 lav). 2, Drumatick (9-4): 3,

Wincanton (N.H.) tonight

5.45 WHETSBURY THE MOVICE PRINCILE 2m C2,443 1 PIOSZE ASHWELL BOY (14) (D) P Hobbs 5-11-5 ... A Demonstry
1 000 BAXWORTHY LORD (57) C Popham 5-10-13 ... T Descensible (3)
2 2007 GOINE FOR LUNCH (69) Miss H Knight 5-10-13 ... Mr. J Callety (3)
4 11723-3 HAVE HIM (17) Nost 1 Chance 9-10-13 ... R Powell
5 0 JOHNS LITTLE TORI (11) P Rothord 5-10-13 ... R Powell
6 1-2223 STORING (11) P Noticels 6-10-15 ... A P Biocogo
7 8703 HEXAM CRICKY (29) N HOMAN CRICKY (29) R LAWNONS
8 6-POP MINISTERS MELIODY (12) P Richers 5-10-5 ... R Greens
8 5-POP MINISTERS MELIODY (12) P Richers 5-10-5 ... R Greens
8 5-POP MINISTERS MELIODY (12) P Richers 5-10-5 ... R Greens
8 5-POP MINISTERS MELIODY (12) P Richers 5-10-5 ... R Greens
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9 FOR MINISTERS MELIODY (12) P Richers 5-10-10 ... R Greens
9 FOR MINISTERS MELIODY (12) P RICHERS MELIODY (12) P RICHERS

15 FONTHELL HOWOE HANDICAP CHASE 2m St 62,146
24715 HERBERT SUCHAMARA (17) (RE) PRINCIPS 6-11-10
34715 HERBERT SUCHAMARA (17) (RE) PRINCIPS 6-11-10
54105 BRAYOS STAR (228) PRINCIPS 11-13
55125 BRAYOS STAR (228) PRINCIPS 11-13
55125 BRAYOS STAR (228) PRINCIPS 11-13
5704 BRAYOS STAR (228) PRINCIPS 11-13
5704 PRINCIPS (29) A P.P.P. 9-10-12
22295 TRIST DEED (5) S Kright, 10-13
500-19 COTSWOLD CASTLE (6) Simon Earle 10-10-0
57050 BRASER PRINCIPS (10) A Turnell 6-10-0
57050 BRASER PRINCIPS (20) PRINCIPS 10-0
57050 CALL BE RIVER (12) PRINCIPS 10-0
57050 CALL BE RIVER (12) PRINCIPS (26) 6-15 SER PRINCIPS (20) PRINCIPS (26) 6-15 SER PRINCIPS (26) 6

P COUNTRY CENT (18) P Lucus 5-11-6
4572P DANCOUS PROPERCES. (52) P Richest 10-11-5
500-30 FORTMA'S CONDUSTS (157) 8 Smart 6-11-0
FURRY DAY Padsy Famel 15-11-0

7.15 R. K. HARRISON INSURANCE BROKERS HOVICE MUNITERS CHASE AS 1 1-25 STAL IN BUSINESS (47) (D) (BF) R Serier 8-12-4 2 UPO 7- INDIAN KNOHT (20-4) C Green 12-12-4 3 DOSPY-JOS CHALTY (1489) Mass C Mact 3-12-0 4 34-970 KINGS GUNNER (721) R Pass 8-12-0

7.45 CHEDINGTON HANDICAP CHASE 3to 1f 110yels C3,709 7.45 CHEDIRETON HANDICAP CHASE Int 11 110ptil 52,769

1 4205 BAS DE LAINE (17) 0 Sherisod 10-12-0

2 5-11FUR BANKROLL (28) (50) 9 House 11-3 R Deseroody

5 39-1-92 CLAXTON GENERIC (14) 17 De 12-11-4 D Richgester

4 13234 DOMINOUSBAN (28) (D) 6 Ballong 11-11-2 D Redenoted

5 EMIFI GENERAL CRACK (28) (50) 9 Nicholis 1-10-9 A P BeCop

6 1209 FROZER DROP (14) (50) P FORMS 3-10-6 S FOR

7 S3-355 WHERE LORARIES (28) (D) 8 Ainer 11-10-9 C Liberaliya

8 (9-670) TEARILE PRINCE (12) C Michael 11-10-9 Upben

Redding 13-8 Generic Crack (7-1 Barroll 11-2 O' nicupan 6-1 Bas De Lains, 8-1 Frozen Drop 10-1

Winnie Lorrane 12-1 Claden Greene

8 research 8.15 ROCKBOURNE HARRICAP HURDLE 2m 0/ 02.863

1223 REPPANOUR (36) (BF) C 1 fam 4-11-10 204-31 BEVORD DUR REACH (1) (D) P Hodges P-11-3 U11144 BLUE RAVER (11) (D) P Hodges P-15-19 165-400 SENSO (10) P Ester 1-10-3 5 32551 BLASKET HERO (29) (CO) Mrs 5 Williams 8-10-6 6 6-97924 SEVERH GALE (11) (BF) P Michalls 6-10-0

D O'Sullivan (6-4) 2, Smuggior's Point (10-11 tav); S, Miss Pirspornet (14-1) 4 ran 7, 14. (R Roys) Toto C2-40, Dual F 64-40, CSF: C11 76 ran 7, 14. (R Roys) Toto C2-40, Dual F 65-50 CSF: C5-50 CSF:

PLACEPOT: C74 30 QUADPOT: E18.80

2.30 (2m HdRe): 1, BEYOND OUR REACH, T Datcombe 111-2; 2, Kaizari (2-1 II-tav: 3, Distant Home (f2-1) (2-1)i-fav Hignest Roots, 8 ran 25, 38, (R Hodges) Tote. C6 30; C1 90, C1 20, E1 70, Dual F 27.30, CSP £18.24 2.05 (2m Hdle): 1, FAUSTINO, R Farrani (8-11 lavi. 2, Amercian (33-1), 3, Reconf (3-1), 7 ran. 3K, 5 (P Hobbe) Tota 11 80, 11.30, 13.50, Dual F 134.20 CSF 120,41 1.30 Caso. Supply Late. 1 (19.20 Cast 120.4).

8.25 (Sm. Chip 1, WARREN'S SPORTS, R
Farrant (14-1); 2, Orumpoolien (3-1); 2, Cast
Mc Citizen (12-1), Evens (av Poppes Bran.

3, 26. (P Hobbe) Tole: £17 20: £2.60, £1.10.
£2.20. Dual F £76.90. CSF: £53.79, 77 kast
£487.41.

E487.41.
4.05 (2m Helie): 1, MULTY, F. Damwoody
(7-4 fav), 2, Royal Circus (6-1); 2, Take A.
Flyer (3-1): 7 ran. 3f, 5 (C Mann) Tole:
2.20: £1.90, £3.40 Dual F: £9.70. CSF
£1.16.
4.36 (2m Cb): 1, BERTONE, R Dunwoody
(2-5 lav): 2, Super Starp (6-1); 3, Golden
Madjambo (7-2): 6 ran 12 3, (K Balley)
Tole £1.40; £1.20, £2.30 Dual F: £3 10. CSF
£4.54.

5-05-(2m 5f 110yde Hdie); 1, MIRADOR, 5 MCNeiff (14-1); 2, Tap Co Tootsie (4-1); 5 MCNeiff (14-1); 2, Tap Co Tootsie (4-1); 6 MCNeiff (14-1); 8 ran, 3 15; [R Certie) Toler (18-50; 53.00; 61-40; 61-40; 62-40; 61-50; 62-61 PLACEPOT: \$49 40. QUADPOT: \$11,60

SOUTHWELL

2.30 (2m Ch): 1, LOBSTER COTTAGE, A Thornton (1:-2): 2, Rainshow Walk (8-1). 3, Bergalah (2-1). 9-4 (4v Hoorle, Act. 8 ran 7, 12, (K Balley) Tole: 26.40: £1,90 £190. £7.80. Dasi F £48.60, CSF: £42.17. Tricast £23.0.81. NR: Bentley Manor 285(36), Nr. Benney Manor 2400 (3ho 110 yels (3)-2); 2, Desert Mast (25-1), 3, Temple Carth (10-2) 5-4 for Lyme Gold, 6 ran, 6, 11, (Ars y Ward) Tole (5.90; C1 90, C5 20 Dual F (136,30, C5F (23.7)

263.70.
3.30 (2m 4f 110yds Ch): 1, TOUGH
DEAL, A Thornion (5-2 lav), 2, Lady Bistonny (10-1): 3, Sen Brenter (10-1): 8 ran
10, nk iP Bradley) Tour 180; C1.50, C1.70
C2.60, Dual F. C15.00. CSF: C25.04 Tricast
C196.65 NR Savard Bay

2-10 Dual* 1-3 40. CS*; [11 75 4-30 (2n Helio): 1, RUDPS PRIDE, N Smith (100-30): 2, Top Fella (11-2): 2, Weather Alert (3-1 lay) 10 ran 6, 5 (3 Bell) Tote, C3 60, E1 70, C2.20, C1.80, Dual F: £6 50 CSF 522 85, NR; Galaxy Rain, Wal-sham Witch

Sham Width.

5.00 (3m 110yde Helio): 1, TALLYWAR-GER, J Callaghan (11-4 lav): 2, Pinto's Ropublic (1-2): 3, Tim Seldier (11-1): 12 ran. 1%. 12. (G Moore) Tote Ca.10; C1.20, C2.50, C2.50, Dual F: £12.40 CSF-£13.13 Treast 28.70.

PLACEPOTI C:52.70. QUADPOTI: C15.10. TOWCESTER

2.20 (2m Hdle): 1, SWING LUCKY, D Skyrme (12-1), 2, Masson Dixon (25-1); 3, Logie (5-1) 3-1 fav Jobber's Fiddle, 13 ran 2 3, (A Blackmors) Tots: (16-06: 2380 £10 70, £2 50 Dual F-0534 50, CSF: £250.99 2.50 (2m 11 Oyds Ch; 1, PERSLAN TAC-TICS, J Magee (7-4); 2, Resi Glos (Evens (av), 3, Mansaboutthehouse (5-1), 5 ran, 11, 4, (K Bailey) Tota (22, 70; £1.30, £1.40, Duai F, £2 40 GSF; £3.93, 3.20 (2m 6f Helle): 1, CATS RUR, J Ryan (7-4 lav). 2, Cambo (6-1), 3, Abte Player (10-1). 6 ran. Nk, 16, Liohn R Upson) Tota: 52.20; \$1.30, \$2.40. Dual F: \$6.00. CSF-£11.38.

2.50 (2m 110)ds Ch): 1, MONKS JAY, I Lawrence (5-2): 2, Santorius (17-8 lay): 3, Tress (16-1), 6 ran, Nk, 10. (G Thomer) Tote 63 90: 21:50 £1:40 Dual F £2.70 CSF: 56 28 Trikast: 536.29, NR Achitibule, Young Aline. Young Aline.
4-20 (2m of Ch): 1, BEAU DANDY, Mr T
Marks, (11-8 fav); 2, Bashretck Bobble
111-4; 3, Yan Coe May (10-1), 7 ran, 23, 10.
IMSS C Saunders) Yole (2-00; 1:50, 1:90.
Dual F: C3.20, CSF: 25 54.
4-80 (2m Holle): 1, GLENGARRIF GIRL, D
Walsh (8-11 fav); 2, Saungsser Harvan (25-1);
3, Execution (6-1) 6 ran, 25, 10 (M Pipe)
Tota: 51 80; 11-50, 26 10, Dual F: 511.50, CSF:
116 (33, NF: Impola. C16 03. NR: Imola. PLACEPOT: C18.40 QUADPOT: C2.10



David Lacey measures United's title triumph and finds a continuity of method that embraces changing manpower and mood

Ferguson's own red power base Cantona bare

Y WINNING the for the third time in four seasons Man-chester United have established a pattern of power Liverpool in the old First Diviston from 1975 onwards. In doing so, moreover, Old Trafford has shown the strength of continuity which lay at the heart of Anfield's 15year domination of the championship.

Alex Ferguson is halfway

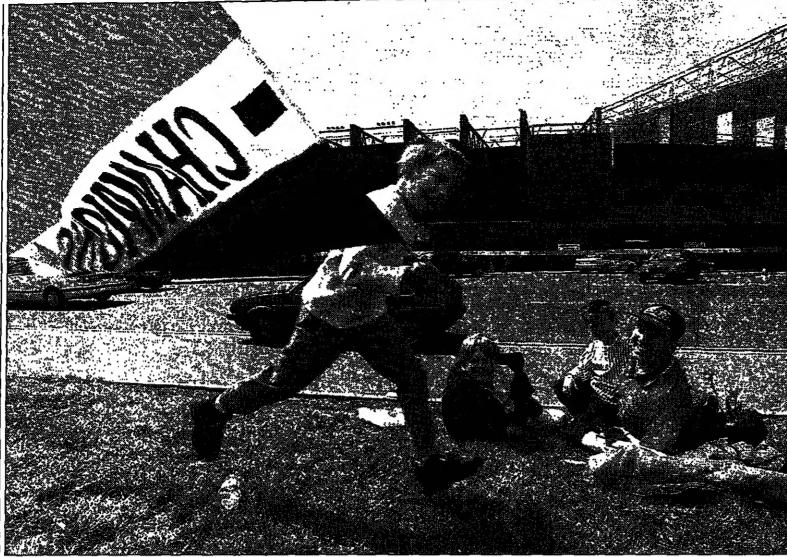
towards equalling Bob Pais-ley's six titles with Liverpool. He is also on the verge of another unique achievement: he is already the first manager to complete league and cup doubles north and south of the border — first with Aber-deen, then with United; his will be the first English club to pull off the Double twice should United beat Liverpool in Saturday's FA Cup final. This is by no means a fore

gone conclusion, even though United have not lost to Liver-pool in the FA Cup since 1921. Yet, if another double does slip away, as doubles often do, winning the title remains the true mark of Ferguson's quality as a manager as well as of the calibre of a team which in the space of a season has undergone a remarkable transformation of manpower and mood while the method has remained largely unchanged.

More than ever United are

masters of the counter-attack. which will be an important factor in next season's Chanpions' League, where the counter-punch is essential in company not usually susceptible to the sucker punch. Their speed in switching from defence to attack can take away the breath of defenders but, without cool thoughts in heads cooler than they used to be, the effect would be less

Of course Eric Cantona has had everything to do with United's latest triumph, just as he influenced the title deeds of 1993 and 1994. If his fall from grace following the kung-fu affair in January last year probably cost Old Trafford a championship hat trick, so his return as a grey eminence has ensured their return to Europe's centre stage, this time with a hand unrestricted by Uefa rules on



Waving the flag \dots a young United fan celebrates his favourites' third title in four years outside Old Trafford yesterday

contribution of Cantona. matchless though that has been. Until October 1 Cantona was serving the eight-month ban imposed by the FA after his assault on a Crystal Palace fan. Up to and beyond that point Ryan Giggs was United's inspiration.

In fact the restoration of Giggs to form and fitness has been as crucial as the rehabilitation of Cantona. Giggs was the icon leading the crop of emerging talents — Nicky Butt, the Nevilles. Paul Scholes and David Beckham through the higher educa-

tion of the Premiership. It is only just over 18 It would be wrong, how months since Port Vale supever, to dwell entirely on the | porters were complaining | already looking an extrava- | than not consistency is the | ally won the game.

about Ferguson fielding a gant mistake, a season of conweakened team for a Coca-Cola Cup tie at Burslem. Yet the United side included Butt, Gary Neville, Scholes and Beckham, then little-known graduates from the FA Youth Cup, now names familiar throughout the English game.

This underlying strength has carried Ferguson and his team through a difficult period which other clubs. faced with similar circumstances, might have found catastrophic. With Mark Hughes, Paul Ince and Andrei Kanchelskis, each fundamental to United's earlier triumphs. gone, Cantona unavailable and Andy Cole

solidation looked a safe op-tion. But the term is simply not part of Old Trafford's vocabulary. The ever-increasing wealth

of United arouses considerable envy, not least from sup-porters of rival clubs. But this time Ferguson has won the title without making further major signings. Kevin Kee-gan, moreover, has spent nearly £1 million for each of his 40-odd months as Newcas tle's manager, and still seen title after holding a 12-point lead in late January.

Teams with flair sometimes win leagues but more often

Rovers had this in abundance last time around, less so this season. Newcastle have played with flair and adventure but lacked consistency away from home. Manchester United have shown both flair and consistency, a potent

If it is possible to identify the point at which the championship contest began to swing United's way, then it was surely the opening 10 minutes of their match at St James' Park on March 4, when Peter Schmeichel denied Newcastle a probable victory with two outstanding saves; Cantona's goal eventu-

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS THOMONI

Schmeichel's massive as surance has become even more important for United, with injuries to Gary Pallister and Steve Bruce forcing Ferguson to shuffle his defence around. The resurgence of Roy Keane, and his part-nership with Butt, has done much to keep United's momentum going since the New Year and will be crucial at Wembley if Liverpool's rhythm is to be disturbed.

Manchester United will offer the Premiership's stron-

gest challenge yet in the Champions' League. Whether, even now, it will be strong enough to take on Europe's best must remain an open question.

Asprilla and their souls

Michael Walker

ative, yet most talked about men in English football, Eric Cantona and Faustino Asprilla, made uncharacteristic public comments yesterday: both mselves to their present clubs.

Asprilla admitted he had found it hard to settle in Newcastle. "I have had problems with the language and it has been very difficult for me," said the Colombian. "I have been unable to share the best moments with my team-mates because it has been difficult to communicate." But, he with Parma in the Uefa Cup and now I hope to be a winner

Cantona, who was speaking to L'Equipe, said: "Twe signed and that means I'll stay, to be honest and faithful to those who have surrounded me. I can't think of any reason that could make me change my

Commenting on his kung-fu kick at Selhurst Park lest year and his subsequent suspension. Cantona said: "There was really a lot of criticism, especially from France, and those who made it thought I deserved it. I thought it was too much I'm. thought it was too much. I'm not naive, I know that now there will be a lot of praise and that, too, will probably be too much." Of Alex Ferguson he said: "I tried to pay them back, him and my friends in the team."

Asprilla revealed he has been carrying an injury since his last international in late March but did not address directly criticism of his role at St James' Park in the run-in to the championship. "I am just getting used to

playing in England and knowing how my team-mates play

and now the season has ended. Nevertheless I have made a big effort to perform ... for this club and gave as much as I could for the manager. It is him who brought me here and I gave my best for him. I have been very happy to sacrifice [myself] for the team and I fought very hard to win the title but un-

fortunately we couldn't.
"We'll be fighting just as hard next season and I'm very hopeful. I will work hard to bring the title to Newcastle then. The fans are amazing,

and I want to repay them."

The possibility of Cantona playing in front Newcastle's fans this summer — France St James' Park — would not appear to be high judging by his comments. "Twe got good friends in the French team," said Cantona, "and I do hope that France will go far in the tournament with or without me, I stay French in my blood and in my heart." • Francis Lee, the Manches-

ter City chairman, has underlined his determination to keep Georgi Kinkladze at Maine Road.

Premiership is likely to encourage Europe's top clubs to renew their interest in the gifted Georgian midfielder, who was signed from Dinamo Tbillsi in a £2 million deal last summer.

But Lee said yesterday: "Georgi has been a breath of fresh air in the English game and you can forget all the stories about him being whisked away to some bigmoney club.

"Some of the things he does with the hall take your breath away. He is disappointed with his scoring record but you only have to look at him in action to see be will soon start improving that side of his

Porterfield resigns from Bolton

ager of Bolton Wanderers a week after the club's relegation from the Premiership. Despite that it is believed he is leaving for personal rather than professional reasons, writes

Everton will make a final on loan at Bramall Lane for attempt to persuade Neville the past two months.

AN PORTERFIELD has Southall to end his career resigned as assistant man- at Goodison Park. The at Goodison Park. The Welsh keeper, who will be 38 later this year, has refused a two-year deal. The Everton defender Gary Ablett is expected to complete a £400.000 move to Sheffield United in the next fortnight after being

Pitch threatens sport in brief **England game**

Russell Thomas

yellow and almost bare, threatens to put the skids under England's match with China on May 23.

The game, seen by Terry Venables as an important preparation for Euro '96, is conditional on the FA's ap-proval. And England's national coach seems far from happy after inspecting the Workers' Stadium surface. Yesterday a Chinese Soccer

Association official admitted "there are some problems" after Venables had examined the pitch at half-time during a league game 24 hours earlier. Five hours after his inspec-"There tion Venables said: basn't been any decision

... there won't be any deci-

sion tomorrow. You'll just have to leave it to us." The FA has been concerned about the Workers' Stadium pitch from the outset. The Seaman slipped on a divot and broke an ankle while playing for Arsenal there a

The stadium manager was more upbeat. "This is the best bit of grass in China," said Tan Yishu. The weather has been bad and the season started early this year but I Ground on Thursday with an

Sirm. City

Blackburn

Botton

Burnley

Coventry City

Hudd. Town

Steve Howey fears he will miss England's Euro '96 campaign after being ruled out of Newcastle's last seven games with hamstring trouble. Today the central defender tests his fitness in a club training game. "I'd love to be able to say I'm fit," said Howey, "but if it doesn't work

out I'll tell Terry."
Tomorrow Venables is due to name his squad for the Far East tour, from which his final 23 for Euro '96 will be

Around 5,000 Wembley tickets go on sale this morning after more places became available for England's three group games, and the stadium's quarter-final and semifinal in Euro '96. A tourna-ment official explained : "Advertising boards have been repositioned. It means or two of seats. We are talking about a thousand or so seats

Roy Evans will break with tradition and name his Liverpool side for the FA Cup final at lunchtime on Thursday. He said: "I would be a nervous wreck if I left it until

Brighton's home game with York, abandoned 11 days ago don't think there are any big liam kick-off. York need a problems."

19 Sheffield United

03 Sheffleid Wed.

35 Southhampton

Tottenham Hot. 07

G4 Stoke City

02 Sunderland

23 West Ham

29 Wimbledon

16 Wolves

13

14

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Athletics

Roger Black has declared nimself unavailable for Great Britain's team at next month's European Cup in Ma-

drid, writes Duncan Mackay. Black set a personal best of 20.56sec for 200 metres in Califormia at the weekend but he will not run the 400m in Spain pecause be wants to remain in America to continue to prepare for the Olympics.

Results

Richmond, newly promoted to Courage League Two, are exsected to announce the sign- with an 84.5-mile leg starting

also want the Wigan forward Scott Quinnell, a Welsh international in both codes, but the rugby league club's chair-man Jack Robinson said last night that no deal had been finalised and Quinnell has two years of a contract left to

Chris Newton, the Commonwealth silver medallist. picked up time bonuses to hold off the challenge of Joe Bayfield for overall victory in the Thwaites Lancashire Grand Prix five-day race which finished yesterday

ing of Bath's England No. 8 and ending in Blackburn. Ben Clarke today. The club Newton, from Middlesbrough, had led the race since Friday. Motor Sport

Frank Biela and the Audi

Sport team put their qualify-ing problems behind them with another impressive Touring Car Championship performance at Thruxton. Biela, who has now opened up a 35-point lead in the champi onship, romped home to a decisive victory, his fourth in five races, in the first of the day's encounters and took third place in the sixth round of the championship, despite starting from the back of the grid with a 10-second penalty after a crash in qualifying.

SPALDING CHALLENGE CUP: First, second leg: Bromsgrove à, Macclesfied 1 (agg 4-2) CUARDIAN INSURANCE CUP: First

mingham C1. Leeds 1.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:
First Divisions C Palace 1. Bristo C 2.
Walford 2. Ipswich 3.
SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL

LEAGUES Northampton 4, West Hern Uid 2: Sutton Uid 1, Golchester Uid 2. LEAGUE OF WALES' Bangor C 0, Barry Th 3, Cemae's Bay 2, Caersws 2: Connait's Quay 4, Atan Lido C Conwy 5, Aberysheyth Cumbran 1, Rhyl 2, Llanelli 1, Holywell 1 Portimadog D. Newtown 5: Ton Pentre 2. Lansantitadi 1. 1 Porturnadog û Newform 5: Ton Pentre 2. Liansanifraid 1. FAI SEMICR CHALLENGE CUPP Finals SI Patricks Ath 1. Sneebourne 1. USEFA U-16 CHAMPIONISHUP Quarter-finals Greece 1, England 0. MAJOR LEAGUE Colorado 4. Kansas City C. Dallas 1, Columbus 0 (pens): Los Angeles 3 Washington 1

Rugby League NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premiers Woolston 74. Egremont Q. Golf

HAMBURG OPEN First round: R Carre-toro (Sp) Irl J Arene (Sp) 6-3, 5-7; 7-8; O Genes (Ger) bt J Hlasek (Switz) 6-3, 6-4; A Cerretic (Sp) bt A Volkov (Rus) 8-4, 7-5; H Genny (Arg) bt J Stenternik (Neth) 6-4, 6-7, 6-3. A Medicaler (Rirc) bt T Carbon-ell (Sp) 6-2, 7-5; E Alvarez (Sp) bt N Klefer (Ger) 7-6, 7-6; E Alvarez (Sp) bt N Klefer (Ger) 7-6, 1-6, 5-3; J Bartillo (Sp) bt P Haarhurs (Neth) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6; M Larenon (Swe) bt J Rentgebrink (Ser) 6-4, 6-2; A Cesta (Sp) bt P Kuehner (Ger) 6-3, 6-7; R Krajicak bt M Zillner (Ger) 7-6, 3-6, 6-1. response at M CHINDY (Ger) 7-6, 2-6, 6-1 WONTEN'S TTALLAN OPEN (Rome), First round: V Rusno-Pesseunt (Sp) bt i Grande (H) 6-4, 6-2, R Zrubskova (Slova kai bt G Bodshero (tt) 7-6, 2-6, 6-3; C Leon Gareda (Sp) bt L Richterova (Cz) 4-6 6-3, 7-6, M Grzybowsku (Poli bt P Hy-Boulars (Car) 8-4

Fulco Villette (Arg) bi N Baudone (ili 6-3. 6-2: J Krusger (SA) bi M J Galdano (Arg) 6-4. 1-6. 6-1: S Jegussessan (Gar) bi P Karnstra (Hell) 7-6. 5-3; K Habsusdone (Slovakia) bit Fortimi (il) 6-1. 5-1; K Bereak (Pol) bi V Marhnek (Ger) 7-5. 6-2. American Football

Baseball

Baseball

American League: Boston 4, Toronto 11: Detroit 2, Texas 3, Baltimore 1, Milwaukes 15: New York 7, Chicago 1; Kansas City 2, Osaland C. Celevinas 5, Minnesota 1; Seatile 0. Cleveland 2. Streedings: Eastern Divisions 1, New York (NT7, L11 Pct.607, GBO): 2. Baltimore (16-14-533-2): 3, Toronto (14-16-457-4): 4, Boston (10-23-333-8): 5. Detroit (10-22-313-8): 7. Detroit (10-22-313-8): 7. Detroit (10-23-313-8): 7. Detroit (10-Sil. 4. Cascand 14-16-46-45.

MATIONAL LEAGUES Attents 11. Philadelphia 8. Pittsburgh 4. Los Angelles 2: Chicago 5. New York 4; Houston D. Montreal 6. Colorado 5. Florida 4; San Dego 10, St Louis 4: San Francisco 6. Centennati 12. Sémedinges Esertem Divisions 1. Montreal (W20, L11, Pct.645, GB0); 2. Allamis 118-13-551-23. Philadelphia 118-13-552-3; 4. New York (13-16-488-5; 6. Florida (11-21-344-95). Centrals 1. Chicago (W16, L12, Pct.613, GB0); 2. Pittsburgh (15-16-500-6); 3. Houston (15-16-484-1); 4. Si Louis (14-17-452-2); 5. Christoniat (12-17-444-4); Westerman 1. San Diego (W19, L12, Pct.613, GB0); 2. Colorado (15-14-517-3).

Los Angeles (15-17-489-46); 4. San Francisco (14-16-487-48).

Basketball

Cycling

Cycing
TOUR DUPONT: Stage five (M; Airy to
Floancier road race, 112.5 miles): 1, A.m.
strong (US) 4hr 41min 18sec; 2, J. Cyrll
Robin (Fr); 3, F. Echave (Sp); 4, A. Mercior
(Bel); 5, F. Herve (Fr) all same time; 5, J.
Pascual Rodriguez (Sp); 44.135. Overall:
1, L. Amstrong (US) 17hr 11min 44sec; 2, T.
Flominger (Switz); at 1,91; 3, D. Nardelle (It);
109; 4, A. Baffi Inj 1.12; 5, S. Hegg (US);
126; 6, A. Marcia: (Bel) 1,31.
THWAITES CP; (Lancashiro): Stageseven (Blackburn & Blackburn, 84.5
miles); 1, C. Lithyehila: (PCA Composite);
3hr 9min 23sec; 2, J. Clay (G6 Mountain
Gilke Composite); 3, J. Tenker (Cill Airways-Peugeot) both same time; Plant
overalls; 1, C. Newton (North Witral Veio)
12hr 35min 30sec; 2, J. Bayfield (Gill Airways-Peugeot) at 4sec; 3, Clay 5

Machinese

COUNTY U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Chestire 2. State 1: Cambe 2. Somersot 2 (3-1 pers) AZLAN SHAH CUP (Kuala Lumpur) Aus-tralig 1. South Moves 1 COUNTY U-21 CHAMPIONS

ice Hockey NHL: Stanley Cup play-offs als: Eastern Conference: Pl

Motorcycling

Whitham; 3. Mackenzi Mackenzie 122pts; 2. Rymer 75; 4. Rutter 67. **Motor Sport**

PROCOCY SPORTA

PAC TOMPRING CAR CMAMPHONESHIP
(Thruston): Fifth roused [19 laps. 44,764
miles; 1, F Biela (Ger) Audi A4, 2, J Bintcilife (GB) Audi A4, 3, R Rydeli (Swe)
Volvo 850, 4, J Cieland (GB) Vauchali Voctra, 5, W Hoy (GB) Ronault Lagisna; 6, K
Burt (GB) Volvo 850, Skoth roused (21 laps.
45,55 miles; 1, Jo Wintelblock (Ger) BMW
200; 2, Revagila; 3, Bloia, 4, Clolend; 5,
Lestie; 6, Thompson Chassaphosadia posidious Drivers; 1, Biola 800is; 2, Wintelhorz: 45: 3, Rydeli 42, Manufacturers; 1, **Table Tennis**

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSMIP (Brail-slava): Third rounds Mers P Chita (Fr) bt M Syed (Engl 21-15, 21-18, 10-21, 21-14. Denblee Stata J-D Watcher/J Persoon (Swel bt A Grubba/L Blaszczyk (Pol) 21-15, 21-11. Women: N XIII Lins (Lux) bt L Lomas (Engl 21-6, 21-3, 21-13; C Tetts (Hun) bt A Holf (Engl 21-11, 21-14, 23-21. Denbles; Stata N Streeter's Schall (Ger) bt B Vrie-sektoop/E Noor (Neth) 12-21, 21-15, 21-16. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSNIP (Brail slava): Third round: Men: P Chita (Fr) b

Fixtures

(7.30 unless stated) Soccer

SOCCOT

CENTENARY MATCH: West Ham v
Sporting Lebon (7.45).
ICIS LEAGUE: Cartton Cap: Final: Boreham Wood v Sutton Util (7.0, Puritos FG).
N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Divleious Kidsgrove Ath v Darven.
NORTHERIS COUNTIES LEAF LEAGUE:
Cap: Final: Ashirled Util v Ceset Alb
(Belper Tr).
PONTINS LEAGUE: First Division: Everion v Dorby (7.0). Sected Division: Ever-

(7.0). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Bivisione C Palace v Arsonal (2 0): Luton v West Ham (2 0): Walford v South-ampton (2 0). SPRINGHEATH PRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Gillingham v Southend (2.0) FRIENOLY: Hitchin To XI v Chaisea FRIENDLY: Highin To X) v Chaisea LONDON FA WOMEN'S CUP: Final;

Cash keeps following Karrie

six under par, gave Webb a 16-

under-par total of 272. Val

Skinner was third on 274 with

Laura Davies, Catrin Nils-

mark and Tina Barrett shar-

ing fourth place on 275. After watching Robbins

hole a 25ft putt on the 17th for an eagle that tied their scores,

Webb responded with a qual-

ity shot just when she needed one. Her drive on the par-five

18th left her still 200 yards

from the green but a near-

faultless three-iron shot cov-

ered the pin all the way and finished just behind the hole,

she almost holed.

eaving a simple 20ft chip that

"It's good," said Webb after-

wards, "to be put under that

kind of pressure and produce.
That's why I play this game,
to pull off a shot like that
three-iron. It's a great

The victory meant that at

the female equivalent to the

David Davies on Karrie Webb, the brilliant | sponsored by his junior golf foundation in Australia and young Australian who tops the US money list

S LAST year's Weetabix | vincingly, despite the even-trual margin of victory being reduced by Kelly Robbins to one shot. A final round of 68. media centre at Woburn rang almost non-stop. Every time the press officer David Begg picked it up, he heard the same words: "Oh g'day, mate, 'ow's Karrie goin' now?" It was Karrie Webb's

parents, ringing from their home in Ayr in Queensland in the middle of the night. They knew their daughter was on the verge of great things and they just had to find out. Karrie went on to win that title by six shots and it is to be hoped that her family's ar-

dour has cooled a little or they will now be facing a tele-phone bill of mammoth proportions. For since then the diminutive Australian has startled the golf world as few other rookies have. On Sunday she won the

richest tournament on the American women's circuit, the \$1.2 million Sprint Title-holders Championship, which (about £118.000). That means she has cleared £304,000 this year. After nine events she tops the Money List after claiming second, first, second, seventh, fourth, fifth, 19th, 40th and first places. Little wonder that the

Americans are calling her the most exciting talent to emerge since Nancy Lopez won nine tournaments, including five in a row, in 1978. Little wonder, too, that this worldwide Webb is being labelled "Cash and Karrie" and the "Thunder from Down

least one blonde golfer from Queensland donned the green jacket at a presentation cere mony. The "Titleholders" part of the tournament's name comes from an event founded at Augusta in 1937 as

She won the Sprint con- teur she won a tournament

Table Tennis

Lomas leads an English exit

Championship medals when she was beaten 21-9, 21-9, 21-13 by Ni Xia-Lian, a Chi-nese left-hander representing Luxembourg, in the third drea Holt lost in straight Richard Jago in Bratislava.

England's other No. 1 Matto her four European thew Syed also went out, los-Championship medals when ing 21-18, 21-18, 10-21, 21-14 to Patrick Chila of France and England's involvement in the singles ended when Angames to the vastly improved

spent seven days with him in America. But this was no funin-the-sun prize. Webb was there to find out how a tournament player conducts himself during a week of training and preparation. Whenever Norman worked out, or hit balls. Webb had to do so too. "She kept up with me, whatever we were doing," Norman recalled. "That's when I knew she'd be a special player. She also has a beautiful swing."

There is a consensus on that. Webb stands 5ft 6in and is slightly built but she has a tremendous coil and turn that clearly very strong.

Meg Mallon, a former US

Women's Open and PGA champion who had to finish birdie, birdie in Hawaii to relegate Webb to runner-up, said: "There just isn't a flaw in her game. She's awfully good." The US PGA champion Steve Elkington describes her as "the most exciting prospect

in golf I've seen for 10 years".

Jane Geddes, another former US Women's Open champion, is equally convinced.
After losing to Webb in a
play-off for the HealthSouth event, the 36-year-old Geddes said: "She's going to win tons of tournaments. My God, she's only 21 years old. I can't even remember being 21."



7 .

Motor Racing

driving

S Damon Hill savoured his victory in Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix

— and the 20-point lead in the world championship it pro-duced — an ominous question

duced — an ominous question mark hung over the profes-

sional future of the driver tipped before the season as the Englishman's strongest rival for the title.

rival for the title.

The career of Jean Alesi, signed by Benetion to fill the void left by Michael Schumacher's defection to Ferrari, appears in disarray. Last Thursday, barely a month after the team's chief Flavio Briatore bet he would win the championship. Alesi was

championship, Alesi was summoned to a highly charged meeting with his em-

ployer at Imola. Officially Briators picked

his words with care. "I never

believed it would be so diffi-cult to change some major structure in the team, in this case the two drivers," he said.

new situation, and I blame sometimes myself and the team, not just the driver, as

we need to modify the system of work. I believe our drivers

must be much more careful in

their detailed approach." However, sources close to

the team report that Alesi, together with his team-mate Gerhard Berger, heard some unpalatable truths from Bria-

tore about their own performances. They were informed that their long stint together at Ferrari had adversely affected their approach and their distances to the state of their approach and their approach and their state of their approach and their approach are their approach are their approach and their approach are their ap

they did not really under-stand how to tackle the For-mula One business in their

new team environment.

You face a new problem,

Alesi

for

a fall

desday May Tiles

Cricket

County Championship: Kent v Lancashire

Patel turns up trumps

Paul Weaver at Canterbury

CRICKET folklore here Min is still some way be-hind Mynn, the Lion of Kent, but all that could change. Min Patel, Kent's slow left-armer, returned figures of five for 65 yesterday, including a spell of four for four, as last season's wooden spoonists beat a Lancashire side which on any individual assessment is the strongest in the championship

the championship.

This was a memorable day's play and after the first two had been washed out it is obvious that both captains could find more remunerative employment as salvage experts. After two quick declarations Lancashire started yesterday needing 340 from a minimum of 96 overs. This looked something of a breeze while Michael Atherton and Neil Fairbrother were together. They put on 140 in 30 overs and halfway between lunch and tea the score was 190 for two; then eight wickets fell for 85 runs.

Kent made a good start when Julian Thompson, standing in for the injured Dean Headley, had Jason Gal-lian caught behind in the eighth over. Thompson, a doctor, includes Lara (for a pair), Atherton, Hick and Moody in his meagre wicket collection; he clearly has an eye on wellheeled private patients.

second wicket at 50 when John Crawley was bowled by Matthew Fleming and it was at this stage that Atherton and Fairbrother seized the initiative. Atherton played beautifully, with his cover drives and leg-side flicks, and Fairbrother just as well in his less conventional way.

At lunch the score was 136

At lunch the score was 136 for two and in the Bat and Ball spectators ordered their pints with heavy hearts. The feeling was unanimous: the acting captain Steve Marsh was a prat. Against one of the strongest batting sides he had a seam attack of four who last season managed 70 champion-ship wickets (this did not include Mark Ealham who, in the tradition of all England-tipped players, was suddenly injured and did not bowl).

After lunch, however, it was a different story. After

another flurry of strokes Fair-brother was caught at slip, via the wicketkeeper, and four runs later Nick Speak was caught at forward short leg. Mike Watkinson lost his middle stump to Tim Wren and then Warren Hegg and lan Austin self-destructed in the same Patel over, which was broken by tea.

Then Atherton, who had made only 35 runs in 41 overs after lunch, was bowled on 98 trying to hit the same bowler to deep midwicket. Kent won by 64 runs and Patel has now taken 31 wickets at 17 in four games against Lancashire.



A cut above . . . Michael Atberton finds the boundary for Lancashire on his way to 98 in what proved a losing cause against Kent

Glamorgan v Yorkshire

Gough proves a crazy catalyst

David Plummer in Cardiff

ARREN GOUGH's capacity to make things happen trans-formed what had appeared a routine victory for Glamor-gan into an unlikely success for Yorkshire, who captured the last seven wickets for 14 runs in nine crazy overs at Sonhia Gardens vesterday. When Gough returned for a

final spell with 10 overs remaining. Glamorgan needed 58 to win with seven wickets in hand and Matthew Maynard at his assertive best. With Stemp, White and Hartley making little impact, the Vorkshire cautain Byas had nobody else to turn to at the | throw hit the striker's stumps

96 his figures overall, but within the first three balls of his return he had jogged the memory of the England selec-tor David Graveney and Gla-morgan had subsided from a position of prosperity.

Maynard, who added 49

with Cottey in six overs, was the first to go, lazily swinging across the line to a delivery of decent length that would have removed his leg stump. Cot-tey then followed his captain back after a rash call by the new batsman Butcher. He hit his first ball to Stemp at mid-on and set off

for an unlikely run. Butcher with Cottey, who had res- James charged Stemp and championship matches.

Gough had done little with | ponded with disbelief, well | was bowled. Morris perished the ball in the match, one for | out of his ground. | at 135 when he gave himself at 135 when he gave himself Gough yorked Croft with his next ball and White joined room to drive Hartley. That paved the way for the in the fun when he tempted

strokemakers but Dale, May-nard and Cottey played themthe hapless Butcher into an injudicious hook and Gough selves in only to get out. Dale fook the skier at long leg.
Four wickets had fallen in
eight balls for two runs.
Thomas, Watkin and Barhit a particularly rash shot off Stemp, holing out to point. Yorkshire had earlier recovered from 32 for four at the start to 205 for seven thanks to 77 from a hobbling wick then tamely succumbed leg-before to White, who had suddenly discovered the vir-Bevan, who batted with a runtue of pitching the ball up.
At tea a Yorkshire victory
had seemed as likely as free

who looked well at ease.

ner, and a career best 62 from the nightwatchman Wharf. Byas's declaration seems

generous but Glamorgan's capacity to self-destruct They reached 113 before five of their previous 36

Somerset v Surrey

Runs by the irrelevant ton

David Foot at Taumton

less cricket out of the way by early May. There was never much chance of a result on a last day when Surrey started 191 runs behind on first innings, the wicket was flat and the bowling consistently ordinary, if not worse.

Deprived of Mushtag's legspin and with neither of their off-spinners in the side, Somerset were painfully bereft of variety in attack. Shane Lee essayed a slow over or two off a few paces in late afternoon, which surprised Surrey so much that he was rewarded

aries. Thorpe's century soon followed, with 18 fours off 122 balls. Again it was not one for him to recall to his grandchildren. There was too little atmosphere, too many halfvolleys and long-hops.

However many runs were scored, this was not buoyant Bank Holiday cricket as we

aries were taken but they engendered no great excitement as Kevin Shine — who had

glimpse of genuine hope for the bowlers. At least for Peter Bowler

there was the encouragement of a double century from the match. He has moved up this season to open the innings again and there does not seem

Wright — as they can muster and includes Kelvin Skerrett

and Simon Haughton, two in-

ternationals, among the

It is not only their reputa-tion which is important to

Wigan. When this fixture was

It is now suggested that Alesi's contract could be more disciplined, focused approach to his driving and stops making silly mistakes. By dint of second place in Brazil, third in Argentina and sixth in San Marino Alesi holds fourth place in the drivers' championship. Yet these results are as nothing

compared to his catalogue of He drove into Eddie Irvine's Ferrari in Australia, stalled in the pits at Buenos Aires and rammed Mika Salo's Tyrrell in the European

Last weekend he crashed in the warm-up at Imola, collided with Jacques Villeneuve's Williams at the start of the race, spun as he tried to overtake Olivier Panis's Ligier and incurred a 10-second

stop-go penalty for exceeding the pit-lane speed limit. With Benetton struggling to get the best out of their latest Renault-engined B196. Alesi has been unable to lift their

morale as Schumacher did. "Where Michael was extremely good was concentrating on detail," said Briatore. "But just to go quickly is not enough any more. That is about 60 per cent [of the equa-

tion]. The remaining 40 per cent is everything else." With one win out of 107 starts spread across seven seasons, he now has every-thing to prove. Yet, if he fails to deliver better results for Benetton, and soon, his frontline Formula One career could be nearing its end.



Cricket Benson & Hedges Cup

0891 22 88+ Derbyshire 31 Middlesex 40 33 Nottingha Glamorgan 34 Somerset

s. 35 Surrey shire 36 Sussex 37 Wanwicks. 38 Worcester

by: IMS, 15 Mark Lane, Leeds LS1

Irani hundred steers Essex to victory

PONNIE IRANI, the Eng-land A all-rounder who has been tipped for promotion, scored his second century in three seasons at New Road as Essex opened their championship campaign with a five-wicket win over Worcestershire.

In 1994 he made 119 when Essex scored 405 to win. Yesterday he was unbeaten with 110 off 86 balls after his side had suffered an unexpected collapse as they chased 187 for victory off 43 overs.

Essex were in dire straits at 32 for five when the Lancas trian Irani teamed up with the Yorkshireman Paul Grayson for a partnership that turned the tide decisively Essex's way. Irani struck five sixes and

12 fours, while Grayson helped himself to 46 not out as the pair added an unbeaten 158 for the sixth wicket, with Essex finally squeezing home with 16 balls remaining. pace Leicestershire's

bowler Alan Mullally claimed the best match figures of his career to inspire his county to a six-wicket victory against Derbyshire at Derby.

Mullally finished with 11

for 130 following a second-innings six for 47 as Derby-shire were bowled out for 89 with Colin Wells, Dominic Cork and Phillip DeFreitas all falling to reckless shots.

The visitors, needing 137 to win, began badly with Cork removing Gregor Macmillan in the first over and Devon Malcolm sending back Ben Smith in the fourth. Aftab Habib, with 42 not out, and the captain James Whitaker eventually took Leicestershire to victory shortly after

Nicky Phillips produced a defiant innings of 45 in 112 minutes to frustrate Nottinghamshire in their victory charge against Sussex at Trent Bridge. Durham were happy to

settle for a draw against Northamptonshire at Chesterle-Street. Set a tempting 222 to win off 44 overs, the home side alumped to 168 for seven. Mohammad Azharuddin,
 India's captain, hit 119 and the promising new opener Vikram Rathore a run-a-ball 103 as the tourists cruised to a 114-run victory over the amateurs of England's National Cricket Association in a oneday game at Uxbridge.

Scoreboard

County Championship

Total (for 7 dec. 88.4 overs) 221 Did not beb J Boiling, 5 J E Brown, M M Batts. Betts. Bowlings Taylor 20-4-47-2; Capel 17-0-46-0; Curran 14-3-34-2; Emburey 25-8-33-1; Penterthy 12.4-3-30-2.

Second Imalogs
S Hutton c Montgomerle b Emburey
M A Roseberry c Capel b Periberthy
J E Morrie c Sub b Pamberthy
J E Morrie c Warren b Penberthy
D Collingwood c Warren b Taylor
J A Daley not out
C W Scott b Taylor
J Bolling not out

150.
Stell not but: S J E Brown, M M Bets.
Sewellings Taylor 11-2-29-3; Curran
1-1-9-0; Emburey 14-1-54-1; Capai
1-0-32-0; Penberby 7-0-37-3; Barley
0-0-32-0; nes: K J Lyone and A G T Whitehoud

Cardith Yorishtre (20pts) bt Glamorgan (5) by 43 runs. Yoracchimes First Innings 536-8 dec (M D Moscon 215, M P Vaughen 183; Croft 5-133).

YOTER CATHERS
Second Institutes (overnight 32-4)
M G Bowan run out
A G Wherr run out
C White not out
13 J Blatey libe b Thomas

Total (for 7 dec. 61 overs).
Fell of wickels conts 165, 167, 169, Did not bett P J Harriey, R D Stemp.
Bourthags Watties 17.4-64-2; Thot.
13-0-47-2; Croft 24-7-47-1; Sarv.
5-1-19-0; Butcher 2-0-21-0.

GEASHOPRIAN
Second kindings
S P James b Stemp
H Morris b Harrisy
A Date c Harrisy b Stemp
H P Maynard the b Gough
P A Cottey run out
G P Buscher c Gough b White
D B Croft b Gough
S D Thomas the b White
S L Walten law b White
S L Walten law b White
S E S F Barnisch the b White
Ediras (bs. 1614)

16-2-71-2. Unperson J D Bond and P Willey.

branco variable v LECCESTERSHIPS string (3) by six waters, manager of the property of the pr

water in the area. Glamorgan,

set 260 to win in what turned

out to be 50 overs, were 75 for

no wicket after 18 of them with

DETERMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF T

Total (34.5 overs) 89
Fell of wickets cont: 58, 83, 59.
BowBags Millins 17.5-5-34-4; Mulially 17-4-47-5.

LECKST DESPUTE poposd involvent

I Magmillan c Krikken b Cork ... 0

I Magdy c Adams b DeFretiss ... 39

F Smith c Krikken b Makcolm ... 3

J Walls c Krikken b Aktred ... 24

I Whiteken not out ... 24

Habit not out ... 48

Total (for 4, 49.1 overs) 197
Fall of wickelse 2, 18, 67, 89.
Did not hath IP A Nixon, B J Parsons, A R
Fierson, D J Millers, A D Mullaily.
Bowlings Cork 18-1-49-1; Malcolm
13-1-42-1; Barnett 1-0-5-9; Aldred
11,15-16-1; DeFreits 7-1-17-1; Jones

J C Balderstone and R Palmer. CONTROL V LANCASHUME
Camberbury: Kent (1998) bt Lancashire
(4) by 64 rura.
KENT: First innings 320 [T R Ward 106, C
L Hooper 54, G R Cowdrey 52].
LANCASHME: First innings 47–1 dec.
KENT: Second innings 65–5 dec.

KINT: Second innings & LANCASSERS
Sepace tenings
M A Atherton b Patel
J E R Gallian c Marsh b Thompson
J F Crawley b Fleating
N H Fairbrother c Hooper b McCegue
N J Speek c Futton b McCegue
M Watfurson b Wren
TW K Hegg b Potel
D Austin c McCegue b Patel
S Elworthy c & D Patel
G Chapple not out

NOTTINGHAMSHIME v SUSSEX.
Treat Bridge: Notinghamshire laps; draw with Sussex (6).
SUSSEX: First innings 303-6 dac (M J Lenham 100no).
NOTTINGSIANSHIME: First innings 255-5 dec (P Johnson 90, P R Pokard 631.
SUSSEX:

SUSSEX
Second basings (overright 77-5)
A P Wells c Noon b Alford
N J Lenham b Afford
P Moores c Pollard b Calvas
I D K Salesbury c Noon b Calvas
V C Drabes c Afford b B-bar P W Jarvis not out

Edras (b4, lb16, w2, nb14)

Total for 9 dat., 104.4 overs) _______ 278
Rafi of windows count: 142, 159, 174, 179, 202, 278.
Did not bat: E 8 H Gliddins.
Bewilling: Calime 22.4-4-70-4: Evans: 14-3-38-0; Pennest: 19-5-57-7; Alford: 5-15-22-2; Bains: 14-4-42-3; Robinson: 1-0-4-0; Tolley 9-3-25-0.

NOTTREGHARSHERE
Second lastings
P R Pollard & Speight b Jervis
A N Matcatle & Sub b Gliddise
P Johnson not out Folia of whole the 29, 33.
Did not inste C L Calms. R T Bahm, K P
Svans, †W M Moon, C M Tolkey, U B Penneti, J A Afford.
Bowlings Drakes 7-2-24-0; Jarvis
6-1-28-1; Phillips E-3-10-0; Giddins
5-2-5-1.
Unspiress H D Bird and G I Surgess.

WORCESTERSHIPE V ESSEX
Worcester Essex (24pis) bt Worcestershire (5) by five workets.
WorcesterSAMERE: First tenings 201 (D
A Leatherdale SQ Williams 5-67).
ESSECT First immens 430 (B G Law 80, G A
Gooch 65, D D J Robinson 61, M C Note 55;
Lampis 5-116;
WORCESTERSHIPS
Second Realings (overnight 246-5)
D A Leatherdale c Rollins b floit 69
SR Lampit (be t lot) 45
F J Newport Bye b Williams 66
R K Illingworth not aut 66
P A Thomas c floit b Covern 11
A Shertyar c Rollins b Covern 11
A Shertyar c Rollins b Covern 46
Extras (b5, Ib11, nbS0) 46

Total (126.5 evers) 415
Pall of wiskets count 233, 256, 356, 415.
Bowlings Hott 43-8-105-5: Williams 30-8-107-1; Cownn 15.5-0-64-2; Irani 28-7-93-1; Law 11-5-30-1; Grayson 1-1-0-8. Second Imales
G A Gooth the Newport
D J Robinson libe b Sheriyer
N Hussein c Moody b Newport
'P J Pricherd libe b Sheriyer

"P J Pricherd libe b Sheriyer

A C trani not out A P Grayann Total (for 5, 40.2 overs) _______190 Fall of wickets: 6, 10, 12, 20, 32. Did not but: 18 J Rollins, M C flott. A l

Cowan, N F Williama. Boveling: Newport 11.2-4-48-2; Sherlyer 5-3-39-2; Lampiti 10-1-57-0; Thoman 5-3-35-2; Illingworth 4-0-18-0. Unpirees T E Jeely and R A While. SOMERSEY v SURREY our Somerset (11pts) draw with Surrey (9). SURREY: First unings 367 (A J Hollicatus 125. G P Thorpe 52, B P Julian 50; Shine

8-35). SCHERESETY: First Innings 568 (P.D. Bowler 207, S. Lee 87 no., A.N. Hayhurst 69, P.C. L. Holloway 54). SURREY
Second Immage
D J Bickneff c Lee b Rose ______ 56
M A Buckner c Sub b Shine _____ 52
"A J Stewart c Turner b van Troost . 33
G P Thorpe not out ______ 100
A D Brown liew b Les ______ 20
A J Hollication not out ______ 117
Edras Pix Br

Total (for 4, 80 overs).

Pull of wickeder 104, 150, 165, 214, 166 auch belt. C Luwis, BP Julina Korasy, M P Bicknell, R M Paurson, Bowling Shine 22-6-101-1; vast 15-2-86-1; Rosa 18-4-78-1; 16-2-95-1; Hayhurst, 5-1-29-0; B 2-0-4-0; Hollowsy 2-1-5-0.

Usepirear D J Constant and K E Pai an, tG

Tour mariefs Unbridge India 290-4 (M Azharuddin 116 V Rathore 103), Eugland NCA 176-8, India won by 114 runs.

Second XI Championship Section XI Championship Section 2-83, Suste 51-0, North Perrett Softwards 7-83, Suste 51-0, North Perrett Softwards 7-83, Suste 51-6, North Perrett Di Roberts 104no, LG Swann 87nol, Old Fraffurch Lancachins 551-8dec (DJ Shadford 101no), Worosstankins 25-1. The Orali Survey 262 (N Shadhi 63, QJ Konnis 61; Searle 4-97) and 127-7, Derham 135 (Benjamin 5-28). Recesters Yorkshire 24-4-7dec (B Parker 85, N Russell 84no, CA Chapman 53). Derbyshire 12-0.

Bain Hogg Trophy Briscot Hampshire 291–5 (GW White 30nd M Keach 71, K D James 58). Gloudester shire 296 (C J Taylor 61; Thomas 4–52 Hampshire won by 15 runs. Starting today BENERON AND HEDGEE CUP [11.0, one day! Cheeste-to-Treat v kinot Coundes. Cheestenh Essex v kent. Bublin: Ireland v Gloucestershire. Labouster: Lekouster: Paritish Universities. Hove: Sursex v British Universities. Hove: Sursex v Deprehin: Handingles; Yorkthire v Scotland.
SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (11.0, three days): Recentur: Detyshire v Yorkshire. Old Trafford Larcashire v Woostarshire. Hortis Petrott: Sommen! v Hampstot: Sommen! v Hampstot: Gromera! v Hampstot: Gromer

Surrey finished on 410 for | tional number of 72 boundfour, a flattering statistic to be cherished only by Adam Hollicake and Graham Thospe.

Hollioake completed his

second hundred of the match, the first to do so for Surrey

since Alan Butcher in 1984.

It was competent rather than memorable, coming off 79 balls and with 22 bound-

returning to seam and more gentle applause in the mem-mundane ways.

gentle applause in the mem-bers' enclosure. An excep-erset's batting.

done so well with six wickets on his first-innings debut for Somerset - Andre van Troost, Graham Rose and Lee were insensitively punished. Mark Butcher and Darren Bicknell had early on reached half-centuries, setting the bland pattern for a day on which there was rarely a

Rugby League

Offiah set to run at Bath

Paul Fitzpetrick

ARTIN OFFIAH looks to have won his battle to be fit for tomorrow's first cross-code chal-lenge between Wigan and Bath at Maine Road. The former Rosslyn Park winger, who switched codes to join Widnes in 1987, said the fixture's lack of a precedent was an extra incentive.

Offiah, who moved on to Wigan four years ago and has more than 400 tries to his credit since leaving union, has been absent from the Central Park side since breaking a small bone in his back dur-ing the defeat by St Helens last month.

But the Wigan coach

victory over Paris St Germain | ment was underscored by and was confident that the Wigan's 19-man squad. It is as strong — with the exception of the long-term injury Nigel winger would be ready for With more than 20,000 tickets sold before the weekend

and all 82 executive boxes taken, Wigan's officials are hopeful that they will attract close to a full house of 32,000. Offiah describes it as a "big stage". There will, he says, be more than only league and union fans interested in the outcome of the first game of its kind since rugby union split in 1895. Asked yesterday if at any point since he switched codes he had envisaged such a match, Offiah admitted he had not.

Wigan never do anything by halves, and West can be trusted when he says they are Graeme West said that Offiah had come very close to playing in Sunday's crushing 76-8 want to do well". That senti-

first discussed they were an-ticipating a visit to Wembley for their ninth successive Challenge Cup final; Salford put an end to that. Wigan's two matches with Bath — the second is at Twickenham under union rules on May 25 - will cover that financial

Wigen (probable): Radivski; Robinson, Tulgamala, Connolly, Offlah; Paul, Edwards; Courle, Hall, O'Connor, Quanell, Caseldy, Farrell, Sabetizates (frombe Skerrett, Haughton, Smyth, Murdock, Johnson,

Basketball

Bullets primed to aim higher | Lloyd hopes to after hitting the big target

Robert Pryce

ARRY WRUBLEWSKI set himself a daunting task when he took over the Birmingham Bullets but he may now have completed the barder part. After five years of small breakthroughs he made the big one when the Bullets beat the London Towers to take the Budweiser Championship at Wembley Arena on Sunday. It was Birmingham's first

Championship, and their first major trophy since their only eague title 15 years ago. The triumph should help Wrublewski in his efforts next season to seduce sponsors and attract spectators to the imposing National Indoor Arena. "All of a sudden," he said, "people's attitudes are changing."

Wrublewski laid the four-

dations of a championship-winning team last summer Nurse as his coach and persuaded Tony Dorsey to return for another season. Nurse, only 28 but not entire the control of the co for another season. Nurse, day. "We're here to make it only 28 but not entirely inex- happen."

perienced, brought cohesion, confidence and purpose to a team that had threatened to fall apart at the end of last season; Dorsey, a 6ft 7in for-ward with a strong all-round game rendered extraordinary by his ability to manufacture a shot out of the most un-

the focus of the offence. With the signing of the Eng-land centre Trevor Gordon and the development of the young Emiko Etete, the Bullets were transformed into one of the league's most formidable teams around Christmas. They won 25 of their last 28 games.
"They came together," said
Nurse. "They accepted their

promising material, became

roles and they got the job done." Dorsey was being watched by a couple of French clubs but Nurse is likely to stay next season, provided a cou-ple of conditions are fulfilled, and Wrublewski has not yet set a date for a return to his

Tennis

stay out of Africa

DAVID LLOYD, Great Britain's Davis Cup cap-tain, is hoping his team's next Euro-African Zon Group Two match, against Ghana in July, will be played at home rather than in Africa, writes Stephen Bierley.
The tie takes place

shortly before Britain's two leading players Tim Hen-man, who missed the 4-1 win over Slovenia in New-castle at the weekend because of a virus, and Greg Rusedski are due to fly out to Atlanta for the Olympic Games.
"Obviously if the match

was in Ghana there would be a lot of extra travelling involved, and this just after Wimbledon," said Lloyd. And there are also worries about picking up an illness in Africa."

Lloyd hopes that the Lawn Tennis Association will be able to put forward

Alesi . . . in disarray

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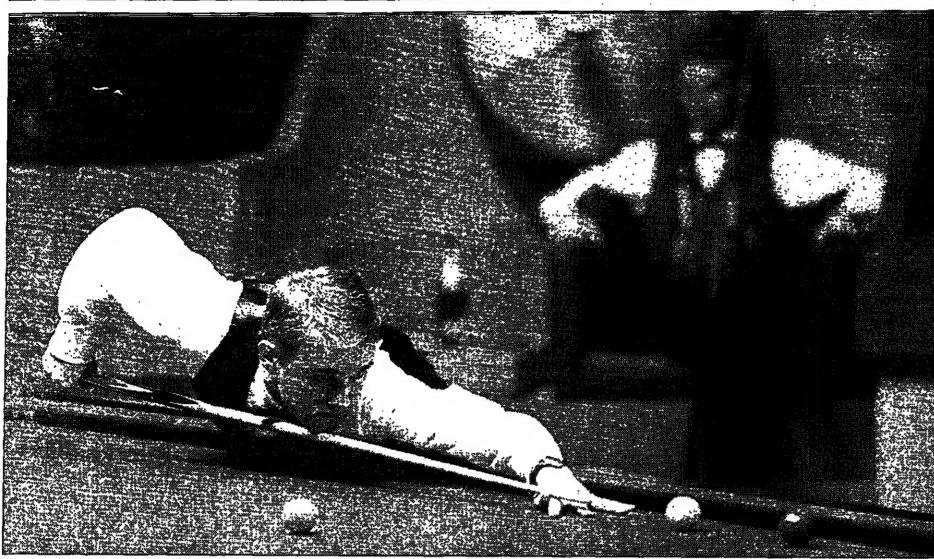
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The irresistible rise of Karrie Webb, page 14 **England reconsider China trip, page 14**

Lancashire's batsmen self-destruct, page 15 Benetton ponder Alesi's future, page 15

SportsGuardian

SNOOKER: THE WORLD CHAMPION TURNS THE SCREW ON EBDON



Dead-eye Hendry in his element

David Hopps in Sheffield on a millionaire whose pallid face never gives anything away

Championship at the Crucible Theatre last night, the overriding question was whether he would surrender for once

S STEPHEN Hendry | tion. A cautiously raised eyeinexorably ap-proached a record-equalling sixth Em-phassy World ceiling as extravagant as an introspective glance at the

No one in British sport can rival Hendry's unexpressive ways. By comparison the England cricket captain Michael

drama: the golfer Nick Faido as "a lousy bet" but, being a proud Scot, had probably in-By the mid-evening break in last night's final session Hendry led England's Peter Ebdon 17-11, one frame away

from matching the record of six wins achieved in modern times by Steve Davis and Ray An odds-on favourite before the tournament — his last de-feat here was by Steve James in the 1991 quarter-finals -

proud Scot, had probably invested a few quid on himself at 6-4 when briefly trailing in the first round.

Three of his five winning finals had been against Jimmy White, whose cele-brated potting ability col-lapsed under the pressure. This year The Whirlwind was ate slight upon Hendry. Eb-don's theatrical behaviour — he collapsed in a heap of fake exhaustion after beating replaced by an irksome breeze in the shape of Ebdon, Davis and is prone to bellow-ing "Cumm on!" at himself the sort of opponent who

Hendry's persona as one can Hendry had been dissatis-fied with his form here but mentally he was as tough as ever. He is more flexible than he appears on TV. Beneath a face of permanent rigidity is a body of surprising supple-ness, which tends to lag slightly behind his head as if about to break into a Groucho

cifically to get under his skin. Ebdon's description of his

previous three tournament conquests — White, Steve

Davis and Ronnie O'Sullivan

— as the best trio in the game was interpreted as a deliber-

Marx walk.

By the afternoon's mid-session break Hendry had stretched his 10-6 overnight lead to 13-7, wrapping up the last two frames in only 23 minutes. Ebdon conquered early nerves to take the next three frames, only for Hendry to recover the psychological advantage with a 57 break as expression of it.

Next time you go to

and see a

at an

Sainsbury's

unsocial hour

woman with

huge rings

under her

out your

groceries.

don't make

the mistake

of pitying her.

This woman's

present is

your future.

Maureen Freely

eyes check

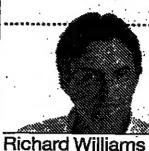
which restored his four-frame

Ebdon knows how to work a crowd. While Hendry strives to be oblivious to their presence, Ebdon indulges in occasional exchanges. A red which dropped only reluctantly into a pocket caused him to exclaim that the audience was "getting value for money". A perfect break-off shot, which left Hendry snooing "Cumm on!" at himself shot, which left Hendry snoo-after winning a close frame — kered, saw him stretch out is also as far removed from his arms as if inviting adula-tion, reaffirmed the committion, which he duly received.

He favours multi-coloured waistcoats that could be used to tune in a TV whenever the test card is unavailable. Yesterday's was a grey and gold number which, after 17 days under the Crucible lights, matched his pallid colouring and the bags under his star-

ing eyes. Hendry's bags normally have money in them. The 27year-old was approaching £1 million in winnings for the ason, to add to another £1.5 million in endorsements. Those who dismiss him as boring fail to recognise that for a player of such inordi-nate ability, suppression of emotion can be as intriguing

Victory for the man who came second



Richard Williams

ID YOU see Kevin Keegan on Sunday night, when a seaturned to ashes? It was almost enough to give you hope for the human race.
Minutes after losing the title to Manchester United.

Newcastle's director of football was being asked by Barry Davies if he had a message for Alex Ferguson, with whom he had recently and so publicly fallen out.

"In this game," he said, "the winners can laugh and the los-ers have got to make their own arrangements. So to him, have a good laugh. And I'm going to make my own arrangements, with Terry McDermott, who's the best signing I ever made at this club, to be honest with this club, to be honest with you. We won't go and have a drink, We'll go and sit somewhere and mope for a couple of hours: We'll soon get over it, we'll have a holiday and we'll be back playing the same way next year, and hopefully we'll just last out a bit better." just last out a bit better.' If Sir John Hall ever

doubted his own wisdom in giving Keegan a 10-year con-tract, the spirit behind those words would have reassured him. Many neutrals, even those who wish Manchester United no ill, will be sorry that the city of Newcastle was not able to welcome the champion ship back to St James' Park on Sunday. But Keegan's words, ment to keep going until the job is done.

I was never much of a fan of Keegan during his playing days. All that scurrying and hustling didn't please the armchair purist. But as a manager he is hard to hold in anything other than affection and

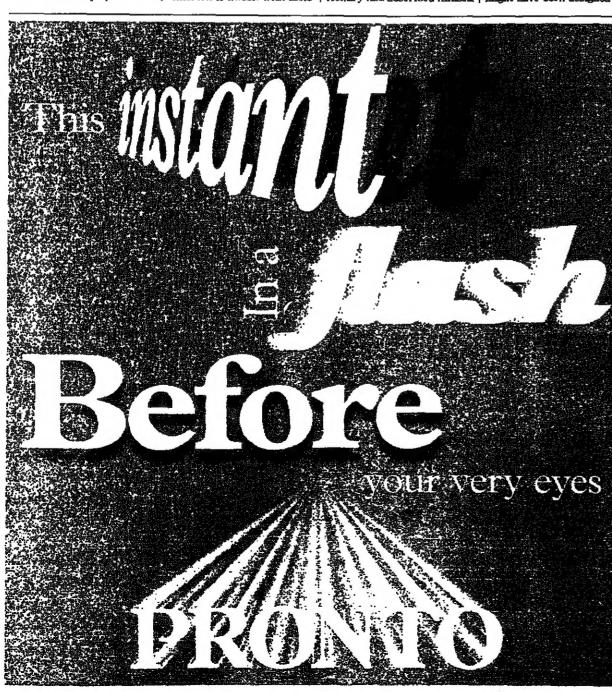
There is no side to Keegan, as far as one can tell. In his dealines with the media he is invariably frank and interesting, refreshingly capable of admitting his own errors. He is a man of flesh and blood, and the emotions that led him into a touchline scuffle with Billy Bremner during the Charity Shield match all those years ago are never far from the surface. Anyone who

cares to join the pilgrims at Malden Castle, where the Magpies use Durham University's grounds for training, will see Keegan and his pal McDermott extracting more fun out of a five-a-side game than anyone bar Big Ron. And unlike some of his contemporaries, Keegan does not just perform when the television lights are on and the note books are out. I spotted him at Heathrow Airport one evening early this season, sitting alone in the lounge, reading a paper and waiting for the flight home. Three or four fans approached him. They wanted autographs, which he signed, and they wanted to wish him luck, which he accepted grace-fully, and then they wanted a quick chat about the weekend's matches, which he gave them willingly, looking them in the eyes and making them feel as though they were part of his world. Which, of course,

They have a nice life, people like Keegan and Ferguson, whose new salary is reported to be around £500,000 a year. But we know that such comfort carries a price-tag. Take Luis Fernandez, the gifted young coach of Paris Saint-Germain, who once played alongside Platini, Tigana and Giresse in the best midfield France has produced. His PSG are second in the French league, their home crowds have risen from 28,000 to 37,000 during his two years in charge, and tomorrow they play Rapid Vienna in the final of the Cup Winners' Cup. Yet Fernandez is stepping down and taking next year off, fearing a heart attack at 36, listening to his wife's warnings about the perils of stress.

ND at AC Milan Fabio Capello is moving on after leading the club to a fourth Serie A title in five years. Capello, 49, has spent those years managing the transition from the Gullit-Rijkaard-Van Basten era but now, having kept a huge squad of expensive stars reasonably happy, he is fed up with failing to get straight answers from Silvio Berlusconi and his footballing consigliere Adriano Galliani. Leaving behind him a squad admirably placed to challenge for next season's European Cup, he is moving to Spain, where Lorenzo Sanz, the ambitious president of Real Madrid, is expecting similar feats.

Men like Keegan, Fernan-dez and Capello are the reason I can't get interested in fan-tasy football games. Watching their struggles, real life seems quite enough.



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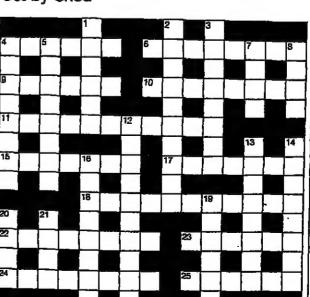
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- being jovial (6)
- 10 Bright as silver but going to
- 11 Not the distaff side of
- 15 Not trading; therefore receiving business
- 17 A blemish in Mother's make-up (7)
- consolation (4,7) 22 Well trained for love,

- 9 Weep about man on point of
- oriental philosopher? (11)
- qualification (7)
- 18 Symptomatic relief is little
- perverted, about to perish
- 23 The party's over spoon-bender interrupts solemn

24 Singularly sleek and tall – almost fleshless (8) 25 Judge female fool? (6)

- Down 1 Butler fell on beetle (6)
- 2 Cat and corgi I'm training to
- make you laugh and cry (5-5) 3 Replicas of supporters (8)
- 4 Beginning of winter is late to
- get coal (8) 5 Robe for jockey at length
- obtaining a degree (8)
- 7,21 Pay attention to raised
- stick, even (4,4) 8 see 20
- 12 Take a vote on man becoming like God (10)
- 13 Plant going zero distance under water (8)
- 14 Worker one left in the Union's a frustrated character (8)

16 Elder, crocus and edelweiss heads in flower by the fence

19 Pout about ship in the foam

20,8 Heads take heart from winning number (3,5)

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